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■ BUSINESS/B2-4

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■ NEWS/A2

Senate presidency up in the air

3 out of 5 youths think they're immune to AIDS

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AS MANY AS THREE OUT OF EVERY FIVE YOUNG persons (aged 14 to 20) believe they are immune from HIV/AIDS, and one in five thinks that the virus can be contracted by kissing, drinking contaminated water, or being bitten by a mosquito.

These were some of the "disturbing" findings In a survey conducted recently by the Department of Health, prompting the agency to scramble for 3 OUT OF 5/ A23

Friday, May 12, 2006

10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 153 P18

'Tis the feast day for single women seeking true love

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TODAY'S THE DAY FOR single women to seek help in finding their one true tove.

Much like the way childless couples dance in Obando, Bulacan, to beg



2 more leftists shot dead

was trade from the state of the

Bayan Muna members killed in 5 years hit 91

By Villamor Visaya Jr. PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ECHAGUE, ISABELA-Two Bayan Muna members in Cagayan Valley were shot and killed by unidentified men here on Wednesday night in an attack that the activists' colleagues said was part of military atmuzzle OJ tempts antigovernment groups.

The military denied involvement in the killings.

Elena Mendiola, 54, Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley secretary general, and her live-in partner, Ricardo Balauag, 51, had just bought mangoes in Barangay Garit Sur and were about to leave the village at 9:30 p.m. when two men fired at them with an M-14 rifle and a .45-cal. pistol.

: Mendiola was hit six times in the head, while Balauag was hit in the head and body.

It was the second assassination attempt on Mendiola in less than 24 hours.

Unidentified men earlier fired at her in front of her house in Barangay Silauan Sur, but she was unscathed.

The victims were the 90th and 91st members of the militant partv-list group killed since April 2001, according to Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna national deputy literature secretary general.

The two were also the 12th and By T] Burgonio 13th victims of political killings under the Arroyo administration, he said.

"We condemn the cowardly act perpetrated by agents of the state. Only the military has reason to silence the voices of truth and change," Castro said.

Catholic Bishop Sergio Utleg of Isabela condemned the murder and described the killers as "evil and narrow-minded armed government forces."

Reginald Ugaddan, Bayan-Cagayan Valley spokesperson, said some witnesses were willing to testify on the killing but were afraid to do so because of lack of protection for them.

2MORE/A7



IT'S MORNING IN MANILA. Eight nuns on board a ferry in Manila greet a new day with prayers of thanksgiving and for a safe passage to Culion, Palawan, to join the town's centennial festivities starting April 29. The religious have played a major role in caring for the sick in the country's first leper colony. Through the tireless efforts of its former residents, Culion is now a municipality. MARICAN ABBREVECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO POPPRESIDENT

CBCP: Make public Mayuga, fertilizer scam reports

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS PHILIPPINE BISHOPS YESterday lauded the Supreme Court's landmark decisions on President Macapagal-Arroyo's apparent drift toward authoritarian rule, they also urged her to come clean on the alleged fer-

tilizer scam and the controver- should be made public. sial "Mayuga report."

Not letting up on issues hounding the administration, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the investigation by Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga into the military's role in the alleged manipulating of the 2004 election

CBCP officials, at a news conference celebrating 2006 as the "Year of Social Concerns," also said the alleged misuse by the Department of Agriculture of the P700-million fertilizer fund should be litigated in the proper forum.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo,

the CBCP president, read from a Pastoral Exhortation that said there was a need to restore trust in political institutions "perceived by many to be corrupt.

Lagdameo commended the

raised over population drop report By Philip C. Tubeza and Michelle V. Remo

Doubts

A LAWMAKER YESTERDAY SAID the report that the Philippines' annual population growth rate slowed down to 1.95 percent last year was "highly unbelievable."

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, a vice chair of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc., said yesterday's headline story in the Inquirer was "misleading" because it was based on 'a mere projection."

"How can you say it is factual?" said Remulla, a leading proponent of House Bill No. 3773, or the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act.

Remulla said the National Statistical Coordination (NSCB) had only issued a projection, based on the 2000 census, that population growth could slow to 1.95 percent between 2005 and 2010.

He said there was no census Supreme Court for its decisions taken last year because the Nastriking down portions of con-tional Statistics Office lacked the

Gov't agency printing tons of Cha-cha

THE NATIONAL PRINTING OFfice has been printing primers on Charter change by the hundreds of thousands at Malacañang's request, raising questions about the possible misuse of government

An insider showed the INQUIRER samples of the material, titled "Primer on Charter change," including one bearing the name of the Philippine Information Agency on the front and back covers, and indicating that this was pub- 3 lished by the agency.

The later copies did not contain the same information, apparently owing to the controversy

FROM SAUDI WITH LOVE: Some of the 170 overseas Filipino workers pardoned by Saudi King Abdullah arrive at Villamor Air Base.

GMA trip to Saudi called major coup

By Nikko Dizon

MANY WERE VISIBLY EXCITED. Others were simply relieved. Not a few shed tears. But nearly all were undeniably happy to be

A total of 170 overseas Filipino workers arrived in Manila late yesterday from Jeddah. They were among the estimated 300 OFWs languishing in Saudi jails for various offenses who were pardoned by King Abdullah during the recent four-day state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The group arrived at 4:55 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) via Saudi Airlines flight SV 862 under an arrangement personally ordered by the

An hour and a half later, they were ferried in three huge airport

buses to the presidential hangar at Villamor Air Base to meet Ms Arroyo.

The President, who flew home separately yesterday, presided over a Cabinet meeting at the air base shortly after her arrival.

There, she announced that the Saudi king and crown prince had told her the Arab kingdom would invest heavily in the Philippines because they believed "in my political will to bring about stability and economic continuity in our policies."

She said that Saudi Aramco, through Petron, would study the feasibility of refining oil in Mindanao, noting that oil refineries cost \$1 billion. She also said that Aramco would push ahead with a \$300 million investment in a

GMA TRIP/ AIO

Location of eye/

center - At 4 p.m. Thursday, the

center was estimated at 140

km NE of Guluan,

Eastorn Samar &

Catarman, Northern Samar

(11,9°N, 126°E)

Maximum sus-

tained winds of 95 kph near the con-

230 km east

southeast of

Strength

2 2 to "

SUMMER'S END: With the expected coming of a tropical depression, the end may be in sight for beach revelors and other sizzlers, including these Russian tourists lazing on the sands of Puka Beach in Boracay, Akian.

Storm 'Caloy' roars toward Samar

By Blanche S. Rivera

TROPICAL STORM "CALOY" roared toward Samar in Eastern Visayas and provinces in the Bicol region, leaving thousands stranded at key ferry crossings and triggering official warnings of landslides and flash floods.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 120 kph, Caloy (international code name: Chanchu) was spotted yesterday afternoon 140 km northeast of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, or 230 km east southeast of Catarman, Northern Samar.

The storm was moving west northwest at 19 kph toward eastern Luzon and is expected to



ter and gustiness of up to 120 kph Signal No. 2 Catanduanes.

Albay, Sorsogon and Tlean Island and Camerines provinces

INOMAP: ERNIE SAMBO

tered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPLETBY KATE PEDROSO, POLICESEARCH/03/11/06

FORECAST: Bicol region and Eastern Visayas will experience stormy

weather. The rest of Visayas and Southern Luzon will have rains and

gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moder-

ate to rough. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scat-

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Senate presidency up in the air

By TJ Burgonio

senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday he doubted anybody in the chamber could muster the required votes to topple Senate President Franklin Drilon from his post, and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Richard Gordon said they shared this view.

Notwithstanding the term-sharing agreement between Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., the issue of who will lead the Senate would boil down to who has command of the magic number, the 13 votes needed to elect a new Senate president, according to Pimentel

"No party or group in the Senate has the votes to elect a new Senate president," Pimentel said in a statement issued from Kenya where he, Drilon and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are attending an Inter-Parliamentary Union conference.

"Drilon has maybe 5 senators; Villar, 4; opposition 7; and unidentified flying objects, 7. The Senate presidency is anybody's ball game," he

Thus, if nobody could muster the minimum votes to wrest control of the Senate leadership in the 23-member chamber, the status quo would prevail, Pimentel said.

The opposition is not keen on rocking the leadership since Drilon, who had broken away from President Macapagal-Arroyo, has led inquiries into alleged administration anoma-



DRILON

lies and set the tone for the chamber's critical stance vis-a-vis the administration.

"I have no reason to believe Senate President Franklin Drilon is in danger of losing his post when we resume sessions on the 15th of May," Pangilinan said in a separate statement.

Gordon said that while the termsharing agreement between Drilon and Villar can be challenged by anyone, he could not say if any senator has the numbers "right now."

"I suppose it will be up to Frank (whether to yield the Senate presidency now)," Gordon added.

At the opening of the 13th Congress in July 2004, Drilon and Villar agreed to split the three-year term, with Drilon serving as Senate president during the first and second regular sessions and Villar taking over after that.

Drilon maintains he would honor the pact with Villar, but Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Gordon stated recently that they were not bound by that agreement. Any proposed change in the Senate leadership, especially when 13th Congress' third regular session opens



VILLAR

in July, will have to be voted on by members of the Senate.

Villar, chair of the committee on finance, sidestepped anew the leadership issue and instead issued a statement vowing to speed up the passage of the P1.053-trillion national budget when

Congress resumes sessions next week.

"We are almost half-way through May and yet the budget for this year is still not approved. In two months or so, the national budget for 2007 would already be presented. So it would really be ridiculous if by then, the 2006 budget is still up in the air," he said.

After months of delay, the House approved a P1.04-trillion budget on April 4, the eve of Congress' Lenten break. Since then, congressmen and Malacañang have been pressing the Senate to pass the measure.

Villar said senators, who had held hearings on the budget since last November, should not be blamed for the delay. "When the budget was handed to

us, there was no opportunity to convene a bicameral conference anymore because the recess had begun."

With Juliet Labog-Javellana

It's check and balance, not obsession to oust'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATORS YESTERDAY DEFENDED THEIR chamber from a House leader's allegation that the solons were only obsessed with ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dropping any parliamentary courtesy, House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles had called the Senate a "national fault-finding" body, after the senators announced they were resuming their investigation of the "Hello Garci" wiretap and other administration anomalies when Congress resumed sessions on Monday.

Echoing Malacañang, Nograles had said the Senate investigations were nothing but attempts to undermine Ms Arroyo's leadership. Yesterday, some senators hit back.

"There's an ocean of difference between acting as a check and balance on the executive department and wanting to oust GMA," said Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

Pangilinan said the Senate would concentrate on passing the much-delayed P1trillion 2006 national budget.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. insisted: "It's part of the Senate's job to seek an end to the corrupt administration."

"That is why Gloria should resign now so that we can have snap elections," said Pimentel, a staunch Arroyo critic who has been calling on her to resign amid allega-

tions she cheated in the May 2004 elections. Sen. Richard Gordon said that instead of medding in the Senate's affairs, Nograles should be grateful to its members for working to get some restrictions of Executive Order No. 464 lifted.

Senators were among those who questioned the constitutionality of EO 464 be-

fore the Supreme Court, which subsequently mullified portions of the order that had barred administration and security officials from appearing at congressional hearings, without the President's approval.

"We (senators) are obsessed with protecting the rights of the people, Obviously," Nograles is only interested in protecting the President," said Gordon.

Gordon said he understood Nograles, predicament where he needed to court the President's support for projects in his district to keep him in power.

He said Nograles apparently was unal aware that the Senate worked on important bills even during the Holy Week break.

He cited the hearings conducted by the ways and means committee, chaired by Sen, Ralph Recto, and the committee on constitu-

tional amendments, which he chairs.

Recto's committee held a hearing on the reduction of the income tax, the radionalization of fiscal incentives and measures to curb smuggling.

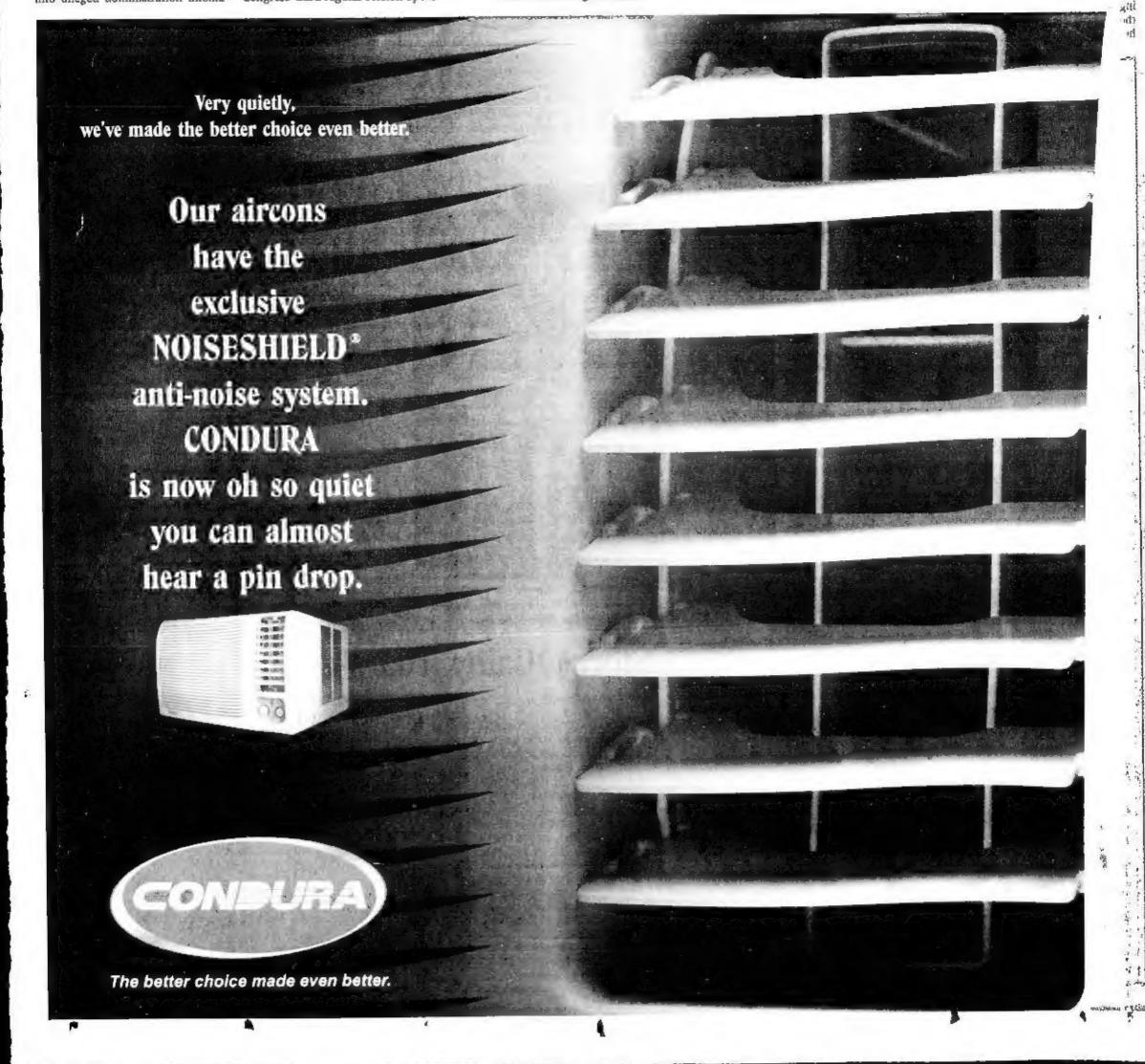
Although these were Malacañang-endorsed measures, two Cabinet secretaries and a bureau head snubbed the hearing.

Sen. Manuel Villar, finance committee chair, said the Senate will concentrate on getting the 2006 national budget passed after the Flouse of Representatives took eight months to approve and transmit it to the upper chamber.

"As far as the Senate is concerned, we' have not been remiss in our duty to hasten, the approval of the budget," Villar said.

He said the Senate committee of the whole had conducted parallel marathon hearings alongside the House hearings since the third quarter of last year.

32



Senator threatens 'zero budget' for PCGG

By Tj Burgonio

"SEN. JUAN PONCE Enrile yesterday recommended a P1 budget for the Presidential Commission on Good Government after its chair, Camilo Sabio, and two commissioners skipped the Senate inquiry Into the dissipation of assets of the Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

Sabio and Commissioners William Dichoso and Ricardo Abcede invoked Sec. 4-B of Executive Order No. 1, which created PCGG, to avoid the first hearing by the committee on government corporations and enterprises which saw a face-off of the opposing factions of the PHC shareholders.

provision The states that no staff of the commission shall be required to testify or produce evidence concerning matters "within Its official cognizance."

"I would like to state for the record, I'm going to move for a zero budget of the PCGG," Enrile declared at the start of the hearing.

He is one of the founding shareholders of the mother Philippine firm, Communications Satellite (Philcomsat).

The senator had earlier recommended a similar allocation for the commission after Sabio refused to answer senstors' questions on the coco levy funds during the committee of the whole budget hearings in January.



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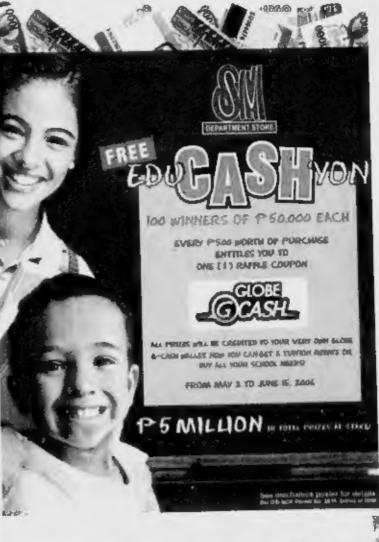
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Corrections

IN THE MAY 10 ISSUE, one of the front-page windows misstated that the country's farm output is expected to grow by 5 percent in the first quarter of the year. The 5-percent growth projected by the Department of Agriculture is for the first half of the year. The accompanying Business story on Page B6 also had an erroneous drophead. It should have read: "Agricultural production"—not reduction—"up 3.9% in Q1, helped by big corn, rice harvests, DA says."

IN THE MAY 10 ISSUE, a story on the Second Front Page.—"Palace names 4 new justices to appeals court"—misspelled the name of one of the appointees to the Court of Appeals. The correct name of the new associate justice is Sixto—not Sixth—Marella Jr.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address; daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Erap dares GMA, Chavit to rat on each other

By Nelson F. Flores

PORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA yesterday dared President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and flocos Sur Gov, Luis "Chavit" Singson to tell on each other so the people may know the truth.

Estrada made the taunt in a statement issued from his villa in Tanay, Rizal. Singson threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo in the event her government enters into a deal with Estrada and the toppled leader is acquitted of plunder charges.

*Perhaps Governor Singson has personal knowledge of large-scale anomalies involving Mrs. Arroyo and that's why he is threatening to leave her side in the event I am acquitted by the antigraft court," the 69-year old Estrada said.

He said Singson "should make good on his wish to be re-

membered as a man

who told the truth

by revealing all he knows on these anomalies, including the alleged jueteng links of both First Gentleman Jose Miguel 'Mike' Arroyo and eldest son Rep. Juan Miguel 'Mikey' Arroyo."

On the other hand, Estrada said if Ms Arroyo has nothing to hide, she should file the appropriate charges against Singson as recommended by the National Bureau of Investigation for his accumulated cash advances on the tobacco excise tax incurred from the administration of former President Fidel V. Ramos up to her own.

Singson said over dinner at the INQUIRER office on Monday that he would go against Ms Arroyo if Estrada were acquitted by the Sandiganbayan of the P4-billion plunder charge leveled against him following his ouster in 2001.

"The case is so strong. The only way he can be acquitted is if there's a deal," the 64-year-old Singson said.

He said he would also oppose Ms Arroyo if her administration obtained Estrada's re-

Per DTI-NCR Permit No A2-200 series of 2006

lease on recognizance as proposed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor. Estrada remains under house arrest at his villa in Tanay pending completion of his tri-

al.

The former chief executive said he would never enter into any deals with Malacañang

just to obtain his liberty.

"My innocence and integrity are non-negotiable. I will see this trial through and continue to pray that justice is done," he

Estrada said Singson was simply running true to form as an alleged blackmailer when he threatened to withdraw support from Ms

"I have personally experienced the vindictiveness of Singson and am now detained as a result of my refusal to give in to his blackmail. But despite five years in detention, I would not have it any other way ... I would still refuse to give in to his demands despite the fate that awaits me," Estrada

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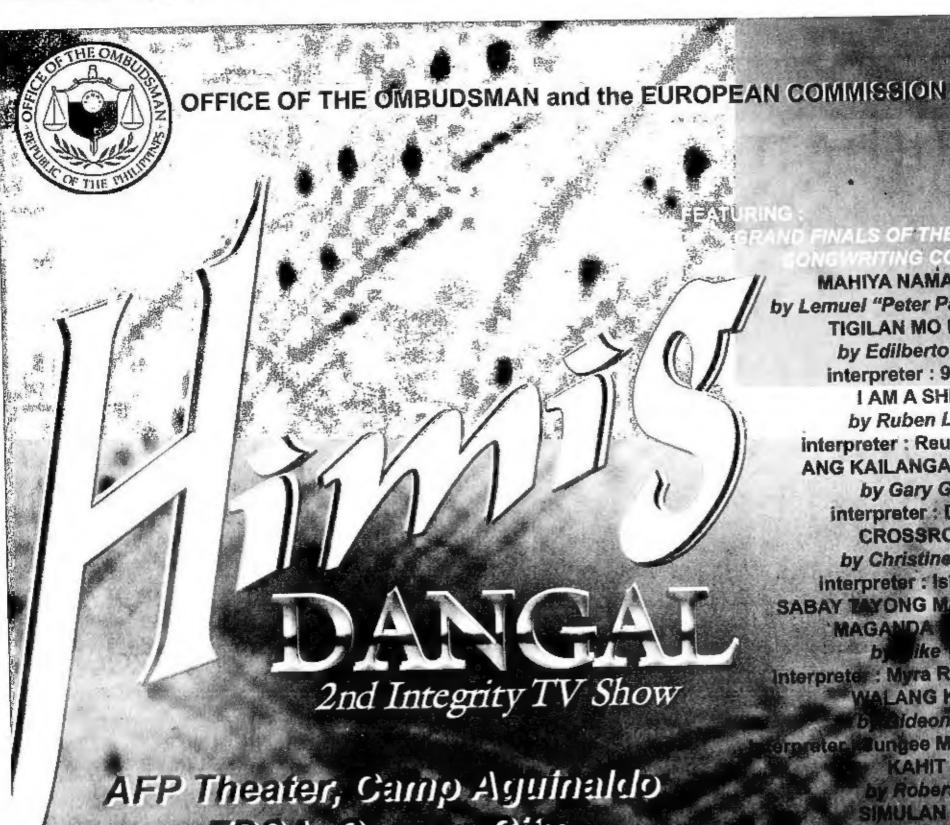
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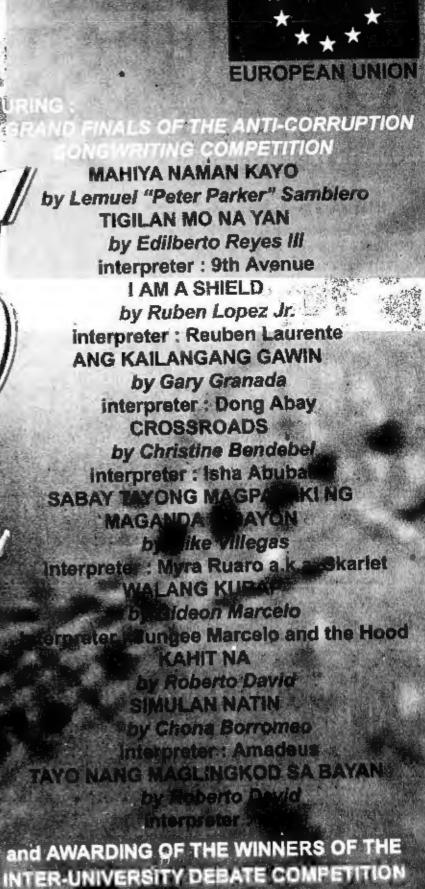
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'HEIGHT OF HYPOCRISY'

GMA House allies slam 'kangaroo court' verdict

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONGRESSIONAL ALLIES OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday denounced as the "height of hypocrisy" the "guilty" verdict against the President handed down by the so-called people's court set up by her political and civil society opponents.

The Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) was a "frangaroo court" and its proceedings "an obvious politically partisan endeavor" that usurped the powers of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal to investigate allegations of fraud in the 2004 elections, said Representatives Monico Puentevella and Exequiel Javier of the ruling Lakas-CMD.

They said the CCTA, which had set up a 15person tribunal to "try" the President, had also usurped Congress' authority to declare a President guilty of culpable violation of the Constitution and to have her impresched

tion and to have her impeached.

"None of the CCD's findings will stand in court and Congress because in the first place the so-called people's court has no legal authority to prosecute anyone," Puentevella said in a state-ment.

Anti-GMA partisans

"As everyone knows, the OCTA is a partisan group of anti-Arroyo personalities who are bent on ousting the President," the Bacolod congressman added.

After a month-long "investigation and trial," the CCIA on Wednesday released its verdict finding the President "guilty" of electoral fraud, human rights violations and graft and corruption.

Puentevella said it was "absurd and pathetic" that a group of "strange bedfellows assumed a semblance of legitimacy by invoking the name of the people who never gave them the mandate to try the President on baseless charges of poll fraud, corruption and rights abuse."

Javier said the CCTA members were being presumptuous because the group as well as their "mock trial" had no legal authority.

Bogus court

"The trial was make-believe because they are a bogus court. They know they cannot win in a real court or in an impeachment proceeding so they resorted to a pseudo court to console themselves," he said.

Aside from lacking legal authority, the CCIA also had no "credibility because those who compose the group are recycled and overused anti-Arroyo personalities," he said.

"The CCTA is led by former Vice President [Tepristo] Guingona whose political principles seem to go with whichever is politically popular and beneficial for his name. His Taccuse' speech ignited the hell for Erap [deposed President Estrada], but now he's rubbing elbows with the Estradas," he said.

Javier said the public was "very much aware" for Guingona's flip-flops, including his resignation from his ambassadorial post.

"The Arroyo administration gave him a position but he jumped out of the ship before anyone else when things got too hot for him. He should learn how to fade away gracefully," the congressman from Antique said.

RP to benefit from Australia's antiterror aid

THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE A "KEY RECIPIent" of Australia's recently approved countertertrorism package for Asia in the next four years, the Australian Embassy announced yesterday.
Worth 92.6 million Australian dollars

Worth 92.6 million Australian dollars (US\$71.6 million), the package is designed to boost the capacity of recipient countries, including the Philippines, to combat the continuing and evolving threat of terrorism, the mission said in a statement.

The embassy did not indicate amounts specific to the Philippines, but said the package would build on existing cooperation agreements and translate into the following:

 Increased training in basic investigation, specialist law enforcement, forensics, and technical training by the Australian Federal Police.

 Greater information-sharing and exchange of border-control expertise. This includes support for the Regional Movement Alert List system initiative endorsed by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders in 2005 to promote "mutual access" to passport database systems.
 Collaborative efforts to strengthen regional

controls on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

Activities that promote tolerance and counteract terrorist propaganda.

The embassy's Chargé d'Affaires, Pablo Kang, said these measures would be explored further with the Philippine government during bilateral counterterrorism consultations next month.

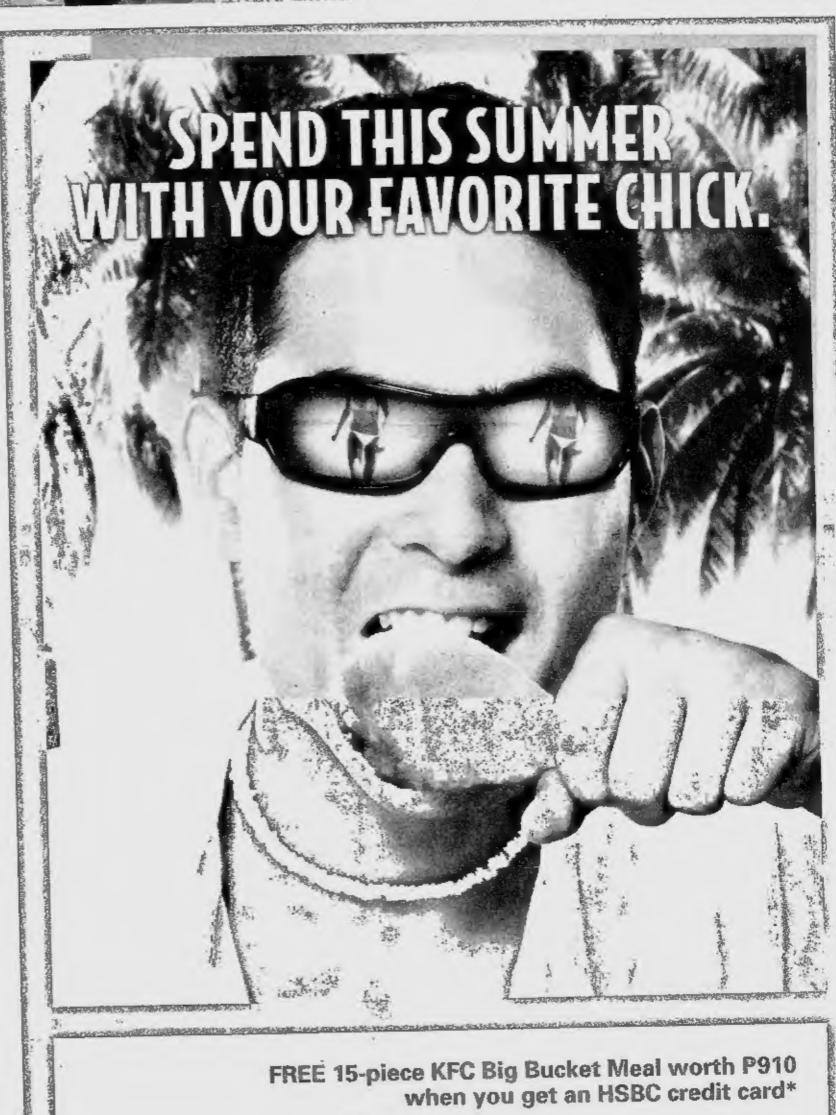
"These measures are a further manifestation of Australia's long-term commitment to peace and development in the Philippines," the mission said.

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz trold reporters in Kuala Lumpur that the two countries are close to signing a security pact allowing Australian troops to be stationed in the Philippines, albeit temporarily.

Such an accord would allow Australian servicemen to participate in military exercises with troops from the United States, with whom the Philippines has military agreements.

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BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

Mark Jimenez registers in new district, sparks talk of comeback

By Tina G. Santos

IS MILLIONAIRE, EX-CONVICT MARK Jimenez, who once warmed a seat in ld Congress, thinking of making a comeback? ...

Jimenez yesterday went to the Commission 1/4 on Elections (Comelec) office in Manila to file in an application for transfer of residence from the city's sixth to its fifth district, according to election officer Raymond Teaño.

"He said he wanted to vote in the place "H where he was born," Teaño said, when asked if Jimenez disclosed any intention to run again for public office.

Teaño added that Jimenez's application for transfer would have to go through a process, including approval by the election registration board.

Sources believe that the move of the 59year-old former representative of Manila's sixth district was a clear indication that he planned to run in the next elections.

Jimenez lost his seat on a question of residency. The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal unseated Jimenez in May 2003, acting favorably on a complaint filed by a losing candidate, Bienvenido Abante, and Rosenda Ann Ocampo, the daughter of Pablo Ocampo, former congressman of the city. The two questioned Jimenez's claim of residency in Manila as he lived in Forbes Park.

In November 2003, Jimenez was convicted by a United States court on tax evasion and election fraud charges.

The Southern District Court of Miami sentenced Jimenez to 27 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to election conspiracy and tax evasion charges. He was also ordered to pay \$1.2 million in fines.

Jimenez started serving his sentence on Jan. 5, 2004 as approved by the Miami court which considered his birthday on Dec. 31 and the Christmas holidays.

He was "voluntarily" extradited to the United States on Dec. 26, 2002, after a long legal struggle that involved petitions before the With PDI research Supreme Court.

Ermita draws flak for Da Vinci movie remark

By Philip C. Tubeza

IF YOU OPEN YOUR mouth on an issue regarding religion, especially one that's sensitive, you'd better expect a quick counterpunch.

This is exactly what Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita got after saying that the movie, "The Da Vinci Code," was blasphemous and that it ought to be if banned-an opposidon lawmaker quickly advised him to just .. shut up.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex . Suplico said yesterday that Ermita's statement put the Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) in a "very awkward position."

"It may serve the country well if the Executive Secretary, whose every utterance can be interpreted as state policy since he is the first alter ego of the President, to keep himself to civil matters, leaving the sacred and ? the divine to the religious," Suplico said.

"We wish to remind the Palace that every public servant took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, including the provision saying that 'the separation of Church and the State shall be inviolable," he said.

Suplico said the provision meant that the government was proscribed from commenting on religious policies.

Ermita on Wednesday said that Malacanang would not lift . a finger to stop the showing of the The Da Vinci Code," but if he had his way the movie would not be played in Philippine theaters because it was "blasphemous."

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President

2 more leftists shot dead in ambush

From page A1

He said the nonprosecution of perpetrators had created "a culture of impunity and vio-

Officials of the Army's 5th Infantry Division based in Jones town denied any involvement in the killings.

"It is just convenient for them [activists] to blame the military. It is unfair. They must have to verify first before accusing us," Col. Hilario Atendido, 502nd Infantry Brigade commander, said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

The military considers Bayan Muna and other leftist groups fronts for the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

The CPP-NPA has been waging a Maoist rebellion since 1969, making it Asia's longest running communist insurgency.

In February, Ms Arroyo invoked emergency powers to quash what she claimed was a coup plot by the communists and disgruntled military officers.

Defender of farmers' rights

Mendiola led several Bayan Muna protests against the Arroyo administration in Cagayan Valley. She actively supported the campaign to increase the buying price of rice and corn produced by farmers.

Ugaddan described Mendiola, a member of the People's Alliance for Democracy, Justice and Good Governance, as a "popular defender of farmers' rights" in Isabela.

"Any further investigation must work to establish who is responsible for this killing and bring the perpetrators to justice. The government must take a proactive role to ensure the citizens are protected," Urleg said.

Killing, disappearance

Earlier, Jeremias Tinambacan, a member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, was killed in Misamis Occidental on May 9, according to the human rights group Karapatan. His wife, Rev. Marilou Tinambacan, was

The group also reported the disappearance early this week of Philip Limjoco, a suspected New People's Army rebel and listed as one of those to be arrested during the state of national emergency declared by Ms Arroyo in February. His family has said Limjoco is not involved in the leftist movement in the

ountry.

The attacks came in the wake of the Citizens' Congress for Truth Accountability's find at ings that Ms Arroyo had committed serious human rights violations because of the extrajudicial killings.

Karapatan has listed more than 560 deaths of leftwing activists since 2001.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday said it was holding the Arroyo administration directly responsible for the latest killings. It said the defense establishment, the military and police hierarchies, as well as the Cabinet security cluster had done nothing to stop the rampage.

Tragic irony

"It is a tragic irony that these killings happened on the same day the Philippines got a seat in the United Nations Human Rights Council. How can a country aspire for a seat in the council when its own human rights record is utterly shameful and tarnished? It is a grim reminder and a slap on the face of the Philippine government," said Renato M. Reyes Jr., Bayan secretary general.

"How can Ms Arroyo save Filipino lives in Saudi Arabia and not save the lives of activists in her own country?" he added, referring to the President's visit to the Middle East and her plea in behalf of imprisoned Filipinos there.

Karapatan urged the President to order an investigation into the killings of activists and to condemn the extrajudicial executions in the same manner she condemned the killings of journalists and ordered their probe.

Systematic

"We are outraged that disappearances and extrajudicial killings committed by state agents exacerbate and are continuously tolerated by the Arroyo administration. In the minds of survivors, families of victims and human rights organizations, this is a systematic effort to annihilate people who hold a different opinions on the country's situation and how it could be changed," said Karapatan information of-ficer Ruth Cervantes.

No pattern-PNP

Despite the wave of attacks on leftist activists, police authorities have refused to see a "pattern" to the murders.

They also insisted there was "no factual" basis to blame the killings on the security units of the government.

"(Investigations) by the Philippine National Police showed no strong indicators that would establish that theory," said police spokesperson Senior Supr. Samuel Pagdilao, referring to the militants' claims of a campaign to decimate their ranks.

Pagdilao said it was not necessary at this point to create a national task force to investigate the murders. For you to say that (that the activists were being targeted), there must (be) a pattern, but there is no basis (to say that)," he said.

Pagdilao challenged the activists to back their claims with evidence that the Armed Porces, the PNP or other agents of government were behind the attacks.

Task force?

However, the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management would be asked to "establish the existence of a pattern of serialized killings victimizing these people," Pagdilao said."

"If there were one, that will guide our leadership to come up with an action like create a task force or assign the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to focus or concentrate on these cases, rather than leave them to the territorial police," he said. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Luige A. del Puerto and Scott James Roxas in Manila, AFP

Isabela solon says Aragoncillo is a hero

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN THE EYES OF ISABELA REP Rodito Albano, former Federal Bureau of Investigation analyst Leandro Aragonciilo is a patriot who was only looking after the welfare of his erstwhile countrymen when he downloaded classified US information on the political situation in the Philippines and passed this on to Filipino opposition figures.

"What this (espionage case proves) is his sense of loyalty to the country," Albano told reporters yesterday, as he called on politicians to help Aragoncillo get a lighter sen-

Aragoncillo pleaded guilty in a US court last week to using his ac-

cess to White House and FBI com- Aragoncillo. puters to download and deliver classified information to President Macapagal-Arroyo's political opponents, including former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, among others.

The House majority said this proved that the opposition, which might have financed Aragoncillo's operation, had actively conspired to oust Ms Arroyo.

A local newspaper (not the Inquiaer) reported that Albano, an Arroyo ally, was the same person identified in US court documents as "Representative No. 1" who was among those who had allegedly received classified material from

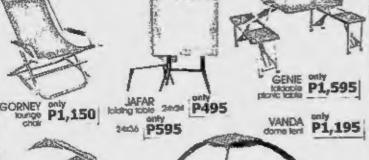
Albano would neither confirm nor deny this, saying, "We don't know the circumstance of Representative No 1. What did he do?"

He confirmed exchanging e-mails with Aragoncillo but said these were purely personal messages since they were longtime friends who wrote each other about developments in and out of the Philippines.

Albano admitted that his phone conversations with Aragoncillo were bugged by US authorities but he denied he had received classified information or that he had passed on US assessments of Filipino politicians to

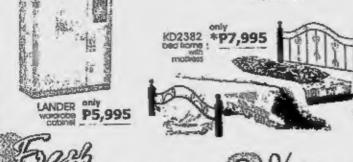


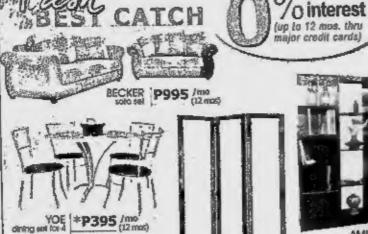
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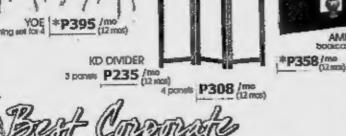




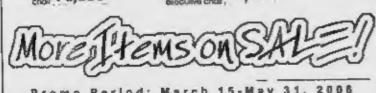












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HEDGE VS HUNGER

Gov't eyes safety nets for poor

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AS THE BOOM IN THE FINANcial markets further entrench the country's wealthier classes, an economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo has called for ameliorating policies to ensure economic equity and social har-

Acknowledging that the necessarily be benefiting the mass of Filipinos, administra-

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vide "safety nets" in the form of food stamps, emergency employment and the like to help

He also said adjustments in policy may be needed to ensure that the rich would shoulder the bulk of the country's tax burden.

"The new highs in hunger surging stock market may not statistics coinciding with a sevenyear high in the stock exchange index is a challenge to this adtion Rep. Joey Salceda said the ministration," the Albay con-

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LOOK FOR MR. TONY MONTENEGRO

May 20, 2006 Saturday at 10:00 AM

government might need to pro- gressman said in an interview.

Salceda made the comments in the face of criticisms that only the more affluent Filipinos have benpoor Filipinos cope with hard efited from an apparently improving economy as a result of the new taxes imposed by the administration to carry out fiscal reform and cope with a budget

The expanded value-added tax, imposed in January, was a key part of the fiscal reforms aimed at raising chronically weak revenues and ensuring a balanced budget by 2008.

The introduction of the expanded VAT helped lift confidence in the country's economic outlook, as reflected in the booming stock market, the surge in the value of the peso and the lowering spreads or interest rates on Philippine government bonds.

To the surprise of even the government officials themselves, economic growth rate in 2005 was higher than expected at 5.1 percent.

Worsening lives

But as some economic experts and surveys have noted, there seemed to be a discontinuity between the booming capital markets and the real economy as the lives of ordinary Filipinos seemed to be worsening.

Last Tuesday, Sen. Manuel Roxas, Ms Arroyo's former trade secretary, commented that the news that the stock market had surged to a sevenyear high this week did not mean that the economy was good. He noted that investments in the stock market did not directly benefit the people unless these find their way into new businesses that create

Salceda said that the initial stages of fiscal consolidation were always problematic, attended by distortions in income distribution, and aggravated in recent weeks by runaway international oil prices.

While the rich benefit from rising stock markets, working families are losing purchasing

power. But the other prospect was worse because the poor gets' hit more in a fiscal crisis if we don't pursue fiscal reforms," Ne

Salceda explained that bring! ing the gains from the fiscal red forms down to the masses would take time and much patience.

"While taxes immediately impact on living standards, % takes time for investments & create new jobs and for in9 creased competition to mitigate prices. It is exacerbated by leakages in collections when der. Similar leakages in expenditure compound the inequit by depriving low-income famp lies of any countervailing benefit," Salceda said.

Tax the rich more

To shorten the time gap be tween the pain of the present and the gains of the future, Salceda said the government should "modulate" tax collections and spending to ensure that taxation would hit the poor the least, and collect more from the rich.

The government should also spend its resources on "well-tars geted and efficiently delivered social services, he said.

* But the reality is the rich ge away by hiring good lawyers and tax accountants, the middle-class just downgrade their lifestyle and the poor's only option is starve," Salceda said.

For this reason, it is important that the government implemen more vigorous safety net programs such as emergency em ployment, food stamps, lifeline rates, transportation vouchers he said.

The government could also to soften the impact of the added VAT on oil by shifting back to the excise tax system, which would exempt future oil prices increase from the VAT.

"The situation simply demands stronger measures from the government. We can't rely on markets to correct the distortions in income distribution on account of external shocks and fiscal consolidation," said Salceda.



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Demolition job, DepEd exec says of graft raps

AN OFFICIAL OF THE Department of Education (DepEd): branded the graft charges filed against him and five of his colleagues, including? officer-in DepEd charge Pe Hidalgo, as a demolition job.

Who will benefit; from this? Why are the top officials of DepEd being eased out?" DepEd Assistant Secretary Camilo "Bong" Montesa asked.

Montesa claimed that the complaint, filed by: one Evangeline Benitez, was based on: "double hearsay."

"We are being im-; plicated based on; what the complainant supposedly heard from a person; who overheard and other person saying. that money was to be given to us," Montesa' said expressing belief that the complaint is a fictitious person.

in her complaint filed before the Office of the Ombudsman. Benitez daimed that Hidalgo in collusion with Montesa, Undersecretary Ramon C. Bacani and Antonio Inocentes, Assistant Secretary Jesus G. Galvan and Theima G. Santos approved the resetting of the May 4 bidding for the supply and delivery of noodles, biscuits and powdered Choco-milk for the DepEd's health and nutrition projecworth more than P49 million. Alcuin Papa

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Judge inhibits self from rebellion case, insists decision was voluntary

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI JUDGE HAS INHIBITED herself from the rebellion case against Rep. Crispin Beltran and Lt. Lawrence San Juan but said she did so for reasons other than those advanced by the Department of Justice when it formally asked that she excuse herself from hearing the case because of an alleged

b: Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-De-lorino insisted during an interview with the inquirer yesterday that there was no pressure on her to inhibit herself from the case even if the prosecution had de-

"There was no pressure from any side," Delorino told the IN-QUIRER. "It was my own volition to inhibit myself."

The DOJ sought Delorino's inhibition last Monday, saying she exhibited partiality and undue clared: haste when she rejected a move by the prosecution to amend the original indictment against Beltran and San Juan to include 40 other people in the case, including five party-list members of Congress and former Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

manded she do so in a formal mo- criminal information on the ground that it was an altogether new indictment.

Voluntary inhibition

In ruling on the prosecution motion asking for her inhibition last Wednesday, Delorino de-

"She is voluntarily inhibiting herself not for any of the grounds cited by the prosecution because those grounds do not exist. This judge is mindful that there remains pending ... two motions

filed by [the] accused."

She was referring to a motion by Beltran asking the court determine if there was probable cause to proceed with the trial and another motion by San Juan asking that the rebellion charge be quashed.

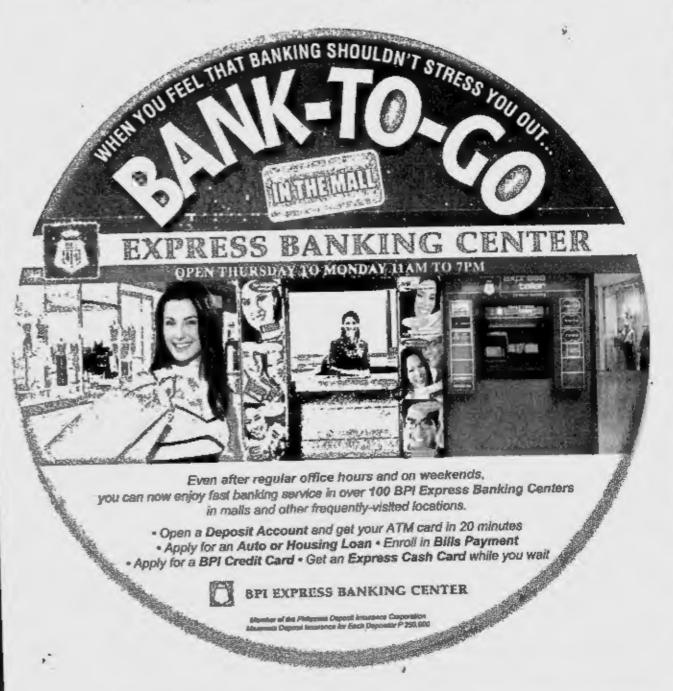
"However, any action or ruling that this judge may make on

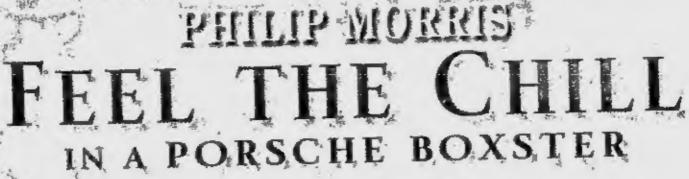
these pending motions, should she choose not to recuse herself, no matter its correctness and objectivity, will always be subject to question and suspicion on the part of the prosecution, which may ultimately be detrimental to the rights of the accused," she

"What the judge did in these

proceedings was to provide a level playing field for all the parties involved, and to rule on the basis of law and jurisprudence, without regard for personal feelings. The prosecution's perception that this judge has acted with manifest bias and partiality is, therefore, downright unfounded," she









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CBCP: Make public Mayuga, fertilizer scam reports

tentious actions by Ms Arroyo prohibiting officials from attending legislative hearings and her proclamation of a state of national emergency in February.

The CBCP leader said the prelates had earlier expressed their opposition to the gag rule in Executive Order No. 464 and the President's assumption of emergency powers under Presidential Proclamation No. 1017.

Probe Comelec officials

"We commend the Supreme Court as an independent institution of government for clarifying the constitutional parameters of EO 464 and PP 1017," Lagdameo said.

CBCP remained firm about the need to reform the Commission on Elections and said the Ombudsman's investigation of election officials involved in anomalous contracts should be completed as soon as possible.

Lagdameo also said the bishops were alarmed by the continuing and "deceptive" campaign to gather signatures under a people's initiative to effect a revision of the Constitution. (See related story on this page.)

In celebrating 2006 as the Year of Social Concerns yesterday, the CBCP in a statement reiterated its call for action from a moral standpoint.

"Other investigations conducted by other institutions of government

should be followed up in the proper tisanship," Ledesma said. forum and fully reported to the public. We refer to the Senate hearings on the fertilizer fund appropriations which concluded that hundreds of millions of pesos remained unaccounted for With other citizens' groups, we also ask for the full disclosure of the Mayuga report on the conduct of certain military officers in the last elections," the CBCP said in its statement.

People's initiative

CBCP vice president Antonio Ledesma said the group's call was not meant to pit one side against

"Again, this is for the sake of the truth. It is not in terms of par- bly our government is trying hard

He said that the CBCP's Social Action Centers had reported the signature campaign for the people's initiative was "deceptive, lacking in adequate information and discussion. and not initiated by the people."

Lagdanteo refused to comment when asked if the CBCP was satisfied with the government's response to its pastoral letters calling for a search for the truth regarding alleged cheating in the 2004 election and expressing alarm at the people's initiative.

"What we are simply interested in is preaching what we feel should be done by our government, and we should also notice that proba-

to respond to poverty, hunger, unemployment in our society today. from the economic point of view," Lagdameo said.

In its Pastoral Exhortation, the CBCP said it was concerned about the "pervasive sense of weariness, cynicism and hopelessness" among the people.

Civilization of love

It said the present situation in the country the political turmoil, moral corruption and environmental degradation-along with the Pope's message that social concern was essential to preaching the gospel, made the focus on social concerns this year

The CBCP said it was committing itself to a program of pasil toral action involving the buildit ing of character, capacity andl community.

It also called on the faithful) and institutions to promote a "civilization of love" through and ticorruption and livelihood proco grams, training sessions on goodw governance and good citizenshipy election monitoring and voters'_ education, among other projects?

The CBCP commended the Pondo ng Pinoy program initiated byn Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the Gawad Kalinga project that provides housing. and the Tabang Mindanaw prou gram that raises funds for food.

Bishops proclaim 2006 'Social Concerns Year'

By Christian V. Esguerra

PROCLAIMING 2006 "SOCIAL Concerns Year," the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has urged Filipinos to speak out more forcefully and get involved more in reforming Philippine society and restoring moral values and decency to public life.

just ordering of society is proper to lay faithful," Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, CBCP president, said in a statement quoting Pope Benedict XVI, "They cannot relinquish their participation in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intend-

stitutionally the common good."

The bishops hope their proclamation of 2006 as the year for social concerns would help jumpstart the tough task of renewing public life through moral values.

This was also theme of the bishops' first pastoral letter for the year which tackled the unre-

"The direct duty to work for a ed to promote organically and in- solved political crisis triggered by President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged manipulation of the 2004

Lagdameo said the yearlong observance was aimed at raising the Filipinos' "moral consciousness with respect to the social issues affecting the country and to be aware of the responses being

given by the Church."

The activities are to be kicked off with a Mass on May 11 to be concelebrated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and members of the CBCP permanent council at the Manila Cathedral.

Lagdameo said the Mass will allow networks of CBCP commissions and Catholic organizations

to "continue to discern, strength97 en their common mission and? pray for social transformation." 'Ol

In addressing social concerns;15 Catholics will have to rely primarily on "The Compendium of the" Social Doctrines of the Church," aq compilation of the Catholical Church's responses to key issue33 affecting society.



THE NEW ARRIVALS from Saudi Arabia besiege the Tesda staff at the airport to get their Training for Work Scholarship certificates that would entitle them to training in new skills and/or retraining in their



MILITARY HONORS are given to President Arroyo at Villamor Air Base following her arrival from the LYN RILLON Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

GMA trip to Saudi called major coup

From page Al

petrochemical plant in Bataan.

"The Saudi business sector was very receptive to my invitation to recycle their petrodollars to invest in the Philippines," Ms Arroyo said.

Strategic ally

"Saudi Arabia is a strategic ally of the Philippines not only because it hosts more than a million Filipino workers but also because it is our leading supplier of oil and a leading supporter of our peace process in Mindanao," the President said in her arrival state-

She said King Abdullah had actually ordered the release of more than 500 jailed Filipinos during her state visit. She said that about 200 others were released in February in anticipation of her

"The king told me how he cherishes our workers," she said. "Our

intensify cooperation with Saudi Arabia to always take care of the welfare of our workers

there," she said. From the Cabinet meeting, Ms Arroyo proceeded to the hangar. She had barely stretched her hand to the freed prisoners when they engulfed her with hugs and kisses to thank her for convincing the King to pardon them.

Hastily made posters

Some of the OFWs cheered. Others chanted her name. A handful held out three hastily hand-made posters expressing their gratitude to the President

Ms Arroyo, accompanied by Vice President Noli de Castro and a majority of her Cabinet, smiled widely as she welcomed them

The Saudi government was

Nabil Bakharee, and other embassy officials.

Of the OFWs, 95 were men and 75 women, according to the official count of the Overseas Work-Welfare Administration (Owwa). Most of the women wore abayas.

There were also nine minors, infants and toddlers-children of some of the repatriated women.

The OFWs came mostly from Riyadh, Jeddah and Damam.

Happy to be home

Most of the OFWs said they were imprisoned for offenses such as running away from their employers and drinking alcohol. Some said they were arrested simply because their agencies in Saudi failed to comply with the regulations of the Saudi government.

Owwa official Connie Marquez

message to our people is that you represented by its embassy told the Inquirer that only after them. Another 100 Tesda emr government chargé d'affaires, Dr. Mohammad the 170 OFWs were processed ployees were also present. would the agency know exactly what their offenses were.

"We are very happy to be home," a smiling Hanaripa Said, 25, told the Incurrer. Said, who hails from Marawi City, worked as a domestic helper for three months in Damam. She was jailed for a month and a half after she was arrested after her agency was closed down by the Saudi government.

Only 11 OFWs had family members to meet them at the air base. The Owwa said most of their relatives lived in the provinces and the agency only received the final list of those to be repatriated on Wednesday night.

Well-wishers

But the repatriated OFWs were not wanting in well-wishers. The airport authority brought out some 100 porters and several ranking officials to welcome

There were also several members of an OFW family club at the hangar. Many of the well-wishers waved little Philippine flags and banners welcoming the OFWs

The OFWs were given P5,000 scholarships by Tesda for technical and vocational courses, and livelihood skills, which would be valid up to December. A Tesda official said this was aimed at encouraging the OFWs to enhance their skills and find work here in the Philippines.

Hundreds more left behind

The activist group Migrante, whose members include OFWs' relatives, said Ms Arroyo had not mentioned the hundreds more left behind in jails in Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries or the sexual abuse suffered by Filipino women workers there.

"Given that more substantial" changes or policies regarding the exploitative working conditions, sexual harassment, rape, contractsubstitution and the wages of Filipino migrants were not adid dressed, the sad reality may be, that in a few weeks or months, Saudi Arabia's prisons may again be unjustly filled with even more, overseas Pilipino workers," the group said in a statement.

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But Speaker Jose de Venecia was profuse in his praise of Msa Arrayo's trip to the Arab kingdom, saying it was a "major coup" with the king's assurance of uning terrupted oil supplies to the Philippines.

"President Arroyo's visit was" one of the most successful by any; leader-and foreign Asian-to the Kingdom of Saudi, Arabia." With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Fe Zamora, Michael Lim Ubac and,

Storm 'Caloy' roars toward Samar; thousands stranded

From page Al

bring rains to Metro Manila on Saturday afternoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

"The Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and northeastern Mindanso will experience rains and gusty winds and coastal waters will be moderate to rough," Pagasa said in its 5 p.m. bulletin on Thursday.

Signal No. 2 Storm Signal No. 2 was raised in Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Burias, Ticao Island, Camarines provinces in Bicol as well as the Samar provinces and Biliran laland in Eastern Visayas.

Signal No. 1 was hoisted in Quezon, Polilio Island, Marinduque, Romblon, Masbate, Leyte, and the Islands of Siargao

and Dinagat. As heavy rains pounded Sorsogon, the Philippine Coast Guard suspended ferry services in the province, leaving 4,200 passengers and dozens of vehicles stranded in the key ports of Matnog, Pilar and Bulan. Another 200 passengers and 22 vehicles were stranded at

Freak tornado kills woman, leaves bundreds bomeless in Pampanga stroying at least 70 houses and objects collided and sparked. It's

By Tonette Orejas PDI Central Luxon Desk

SASMUAN, PAMPANGA-A 52year-old woman died of a heart attack while a 7-year-old boy was injured when a freak tornado struck Barangay Sto. Tomas here at around 8:45 p.m. on

Wednesday, officials said. Vice Mayor Mozart Panlaqui sald Pita Limpin died while Emmanuel Arce was hit in the leg by a metal sheet as the tornado ripped through the village, de-

leaving hundreds of residents homeless. Panlaqui said residents began

rebuilding their homes on Thursday. Perdinand Pantig, barangay

captain of Sto. Tomas, said most of the villagers were watching television when the tornado ripped through the vil-"The tornado ripped through

the roofs, hurled these in all di-

rections. Up in the air, the metal

good that no fires occurred." Pantig said. Cristina Bamba, 47, said the

tornado changed course, swirled into nearby Barangay Bangcal in Guague town at 9 p.m., then struck Sto. Tomas

Guagua Mayor Ricardo Rivera said the tornado destroyed four houses and damaging eight others in Bangcal.

Amelita Pring, barangay captain of Bangcal, said a tricycle

picked up off the road by the tornado was later found in a ceme-

Before the onset of the rainy season, tornadoes usually hit Pampanga's coastal towns of Masantol and Macabebe, according to reports of the Pampanga Disaster Coordinating Council.

Meteorologists said the freak tornado was caused by severe thunderstorms brought about by abrupt temperature changes at the onset of the rainy season.

ple through floods, landslides and other hazards induced by strong winds and heavy rains.

La Niña ends

The storm warning came as Pass gasa officially declared the end of La Niña, an extreme weather phenomenon that affected most of Asia and caused above average rainfall since November last year:

"The weak La Niña that prevailed in the equatorial Pacific Ocean for a short period of time from November 2005 to April 2006 has ended," Pagasa said in its final La Niña advisory released.

yesterday afternoon. "Atmospheric and oceanic indicators have remained close to not? mal . . . Por the month of May, rainfall conditions are expected to be" near average in most parts of central and northern Luzon," it added

These areas include Palawan Cavite, Batangas, Northern Samar, southern Antique, Negros Occidental, Zamboanga del Sur, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Central Mindanao. With reports from Bobby Labalan, and Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and AFP

the Tabaco port in Albay.

All outdoor games at the Palarong Pambanse in Nega City were also suspended. (See related story in Sports, Page A29.)

Pagasa forecaster Ben Sawi tracked the center of the storm near Leyte, where six days of continuous

rains caused a murislide that buried an entire village and killed about 1,000 people in Pebruary.

To exit Sunday

Caloy, the third tropical storm to enter the country this year, is expected to be 200 km north

northwest of Catarman, Northern Samar, or 80 km west of Virac, Catanduanes, by this afternoon.

Caloy is expected to exit Pangasinan by Sunday afternoon, according to Pagasa.

Provinces with warning sig-

floods and landslides. The public and the disaster coordinating councils concerned are advised to take appropriate action," the weather bureau said.

An average of 19 tropical storms and typhoons strike the Philippines nels are alerted against flash every year, killing hundreds of peo-

Environmental group offers 'green fiesta' tips

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By Blanche S. Rivera

EXCHANGE THOSE BALLOONS AND PLAStic "banderitas" for plants. Gather the excess food and give it to the homeless or the neighbors, and the food discards to the dogs. Use cloth table napkins.

These were some of the "green flesta" tips released by the Ecowaste Coal uon, a network of environmental organizations and communities which came out with its to-do list for a zerowaste, or at least, less trashy month of festivities.

Earth-friendly

Responding to what it called a "waste dilemma" during the countless fiestas held around the Philippines during the month of May, the coalition issued practical guidelines to make celebrations, if not waste free, at least cleaner and greener.

In planning the fiesta, the organizers or the "comite de festejos" should keep the environment in mand and take steps to inform the community about the need for and benefits of an earth-friendly fiesta to inspire everyone to get involved

Decorations should be made with reusable, recyclable or biodegradable materials. Instead of the usual plastic streamers or balloons, plants and flowers could highlight the homes and venues.

To reduce expenses and leftovers, plan the menu in advance so that food should only be purchased in amounts that are sufficient to feed the household members and guests, Ecowaste suggested.

Banana leaves

Try the traditional banana leaves to serve the meals and use washable table napkins. Share extra food with the neighbors and the needy, or compost the discards if there are no animals to eat them.

Other waste products should be segregated and properly disposed and not mixed, dumped or burned, the group said

"We can make our fiesta a firring expression of our communion as stewards of Mother Nature by reducing waste to zero or darn near, putting a stop to all polluting practices, conserving water, electricity and other finite sources, and saving funds for basic needs and charines," Ecowaste

Tis the feast

From page A1

the heavens for that much-awaited son or daughter, the single woman can sway to the music of a brass band during a procession in celebration of the 243rd feast of Señor San Roque in Valenzueia City, and pray for some-

The yearly fiesta in honor of San Roque is celebrated in other parts of the country in August. But in Valenzuela (formerly Polo), D-Day falls on the 12th of May.

San Roque, who is popular for his supposed healing powers, is now also becoming known as the patron saint of the unmarried, particularly among Valenzuela residents

Happy stories

"We can no longer trace how the belief started, bult we all know of happy stones from those who danced at the procession," said Marither Mensa, who has lived in Vaienzuela all her life.

Marither said one of her favorite stories was that of a woman who danced at the procession after attending a morning Mass dusing the fiesta some 20 years ago.

'In the evening her ex-boyfriend called her up from the United States and told her that he was coming home to see her," Manther narrated.

Another woman who danced at the procession and met her husband five months later was Lorena Natividad Borja, a member of the Valenzuela City Council.

"It was an answered prayer, and I really believe it was through the intercession of Sefior Sán Roque," said Lorena, who is happily married to ian Borja, a councilor of Malabon City. They now have two children.

Lorena said she met Ian through another friend five months after dancing in honor of San Roque in May 2003.

She said she and lan were introduced in October, got engaged in December, and were married the following year.

'Someone I asked for'

I Lorena said that while swaying to the music of the band in the sweltering heat, she fervently prayed to San Roque for a man to marry.

"I'm glad I decided to dance at the fiesta after two years of not being involved with anyone," she said

Since then, she said, she had made it a family affair to attend the fiesta and the Mass.

But she no longer dances at the procession. Every Lime they came to visit, she said, "I would always tease my husband as someone I

asked for from San Roque," she said. Lorena has a piece of advice for those intending to dance at today's procession in Valenzuele: "They must have faith for their prayers to be answered."

'Miracles'

From accounts of the history of the feast of San Roque, the "miracles" started in 1637 when the residents of the town of San Roque came down from the mountains.

The townsfolk were supposedly fleeing the English troops who invaded the barries of Mabolo, Wakas, Dalandanan and Polo, which were all part of Valenzuela.

It is said that in the mountains, the townsfolk had contracted malaria and high fever. But they were instandly cured after holding a procession in honor of the saint.

The procession was said to have been held ufider the blistering heat of the sun, and in a filesta atmosphere, with dancing and singing.

Coalition said in a statement.

Visible garbage stations

Organizers of variety shows, beauty pageants, talent shows, street parties and other festive events were encouraged to set up visible garbage stations for biodegradable and nonbiodegradable waste.

The group put together the tips and prepared materials that would be distributed to parishes and communities.

Metro Manila generates at least 5,000 tons of garbage daily, and this increases noticeably on days marked with fiestas, Ecowaste said.

Ecowaste has written the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines procession to take place in the

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to inform them of the green fiests ideas evening, use candles that do not emit and seek help in disseminating the tips.

"(CBCP president) Archbishop Angel Lagdameo . supports your pro-envaronment advocacy and programs . Your campaign would be properly dissemmated through the programs of the CBCP-Ecology office," CBCP secretary general Juanito Figura said in a letter to Ecowaste dated April 19.

Ecowaste also gave ideas on how to reduce waste and pollution from religious processions. The group said parishes should consider doing processions in daylight.

If it is inevitable for the

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excessive soot, and fireworks should be avoided, the group said. "Bursting firecrackers or burning fies-

ta discards such as plastic buntings, stage props and party disposables discharge persistent organic positiants (POPs) and other harmful chemicals that can injure our ecosystems and impair the health of humans and other beings," Ecowaste said, With LJ Pasion, trainee



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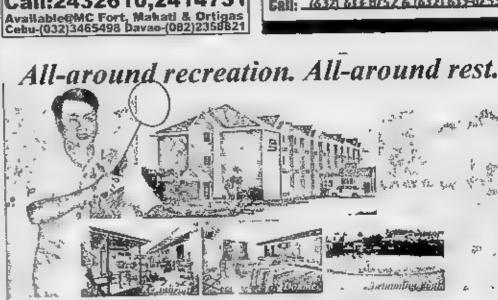
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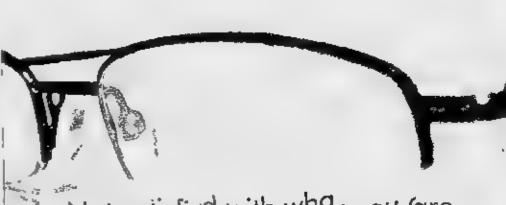




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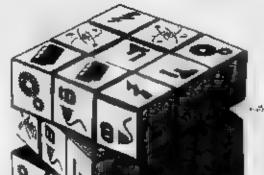
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Political milieu corrupting new lawyers, say legal vets

By Armand N. Nocum

TWO PROMINENT LAWYERS YESterday slammed certain colleagues in the profession, particularly those in government, for being bad examples to the newest members of the bar.

Although interviewed separately, Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) president Anselmo Cadiz and Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan were one in saying the political environment committed to the corruption of young and idealistic lawyers.

"It's the political milieu," said Khan.

Cadiz was more forthright, singling out Malacaftang lawyers who continued to justify edicts assued by President Macapagal-Arroyo even if these had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Cadlz blamed it on "the general malaise of society."

The two lawyers were reacting to Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's speech at the oath-taking of the coun-

try's 1,526 newest lawyers last Tuesday.

Panganiban had said that the way unscrupulous lawyers were throwing legal ethics to the wind, they could be worse than criminals.

"Society has the most to fear from these lawyers who have a wealth of legal knowledge but threadbare ethical moorings—they may turn out to be worse than the criminals they defend," he said.

He noted there were many smart lawyers who hid behind legal technicalities to advance their and their clients' interests at the expense of justice,

"in a society in constant flux such as ours, there is an ever-growing temptation to cut comers for easy solutions. Sadly, some lawyers have become adept at being merely legal technicians defending their chent's causes," be said

Cadiz agreed with Panganiban but blamed politics for corrupting the legal profession.

"It is in the leadership, How can you expect the legal profession to stand as a legal example when the elders tasked to

calities," he said, referring to the congressmen-lawyers in the House allied with Ms Arroyo who caused the dismissal of the impeachment complaint against her last year on technicalities.

But Cadiz was quick to point out that, in contrast to the few who practiced the profession for money, there were thousands of principled and idealistic lawyers who worked threlessly to advance the interest of justice.

Khan also blamed the law schools for "emphasizing the materialistic aspect" of the profession over the ethical.

Tr's part of the damaged culture phenomenon-the emphasis on winning at all cost," Khan sald.

The problem, he said, was compounded by the activities of high-profile lawyers in government who were "not exactly paragons of good, ethical and upright legal practice."

Thus, he said, Panganiban had taken it upon himself to help reform the legal profession.

"It's a question of going back to the lead the way are hiding behind technicore values of the law," he said.

Lafayette asks gov't to allow test run

THE MINING FIRM LAFAYETTE Phils, is asking the government to allow a test-run of its Rapu Rapu processing operations prior to a full restart, saying any further delay will have a significant effect on the company's finances, its bost communities, and on investor confidence.

Carlos G. Dominguez, Lafayette chair and president, said in a press statement the company had been maintaining its project in Rapu Rapu Island in Albay at a cost of some P150 million a month the past six months that it has not been operating.

plied with all the requirements as of mid-April and under the rules, we should be allowed to test if the remedial measures we have installed operate properly," he said.

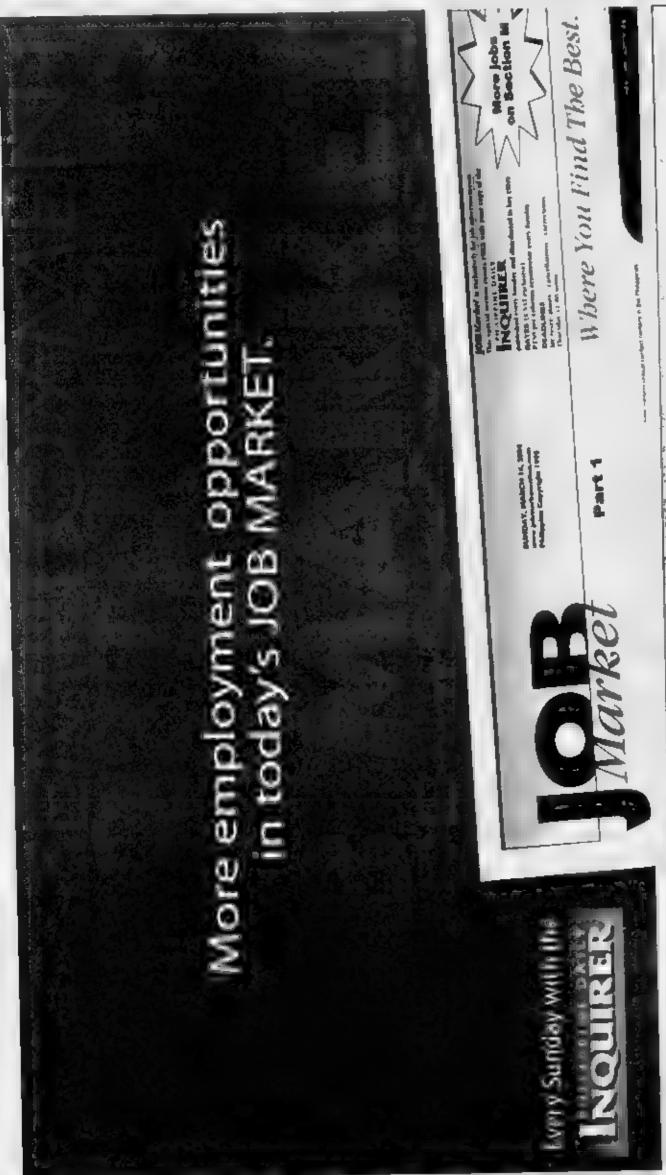
Dominguez said the project's funders would like to see the legal process followed soonest especially because it continues to spend a lot of money without generating any income.

"A simple test run will go a long way in calming investors in general. Besides, we will be using just water and non-chemical-bearing load to see

"The new management has com- where else we need to fine-tune the system. And we would welcome all concerned parties to observe," he said.

Dominguez said timing is important because the project's processing plant is brand-new and would have to undergo a commissioning phase which takes longer than if it already had been in operation before.

"Every day's delay will cost us in terms of maintenance costs and lost opportunipes. At the same time, our host communities will not be able to feel the full benefits from the project, which is the biggest investor in the region to date," he said.





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SUBIC RAPE TRIAL

When does counting THE ASHES OF ISABEL GENEROSO Castillo of Bauan, Batangas, will arrive in Manila on May 15 and In Port Moods Positish Columbia. start? Debate rages

By Tarra V. Quismundo

-21 WHEN SHOULD THE COUNTING START?

The opposing camps in the Subic Bay rape -5: case argued in court yesterday over when the vi- counting should begin for the one-year period provided for under the Visiting Forces Agreeno ment (VFA) to conduct the trial

During the hearing in Branch 139 of the Makati Regional Trial Court, the private proser ecutors and the lawyers of the four US Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman in Subic, yied to have their opposing inter--r pretations of the VFA provision accepted by

The VFA, the RP-US pact that allows Amerilu can troops in the country to hold joint exercises with the Philippine military, prescribes a -x one-year period within which trials of US seron vicemen charged in Philippine courts must be

completed. The VFA, however, does not say when the period should begin, whether from the time charges are filed or upon the arraignment of the accused.

Hence, while the private prosecutors began counting from April 28, when the accused were arraigned, the defense panel started or counting from Dec. 27 last year, when the case was filed in court.

It was on Now 1, 2005, that four US At Marines-Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier year period.

and Lance Cpls. Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith and Dominic Duplantis-allegedly raped the Filipino woman in a cruising van in the Subic Bay Freepost.

Pollowing a preliminary investigation, rape charges were filed against them 56 days after the alleged commission of the crime, on Dec.

Defense lawyer Jose Justiniano told re-

Our position is that it should begin when the information was filed in court. They [prosecution) have a different interpretation but for us that's not important ... What matters is that we start talking about the accusations. Besides, if the one-year period lapses we have an extradution treaty and there are remedies to that, and what they fear has no basis."

However, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, one of the private prosecutors, said: "Under the treaty, the one-year period should start upon the beginning of judicial proceedings, meaning [the case is] aiready in court and the process has started. So our stand is the one-year period starts from the beginning of judicial proceedings. And when is that? Upon arraignment."

Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon assured both parties he would resolve the matter and that he was ready to hold frequent hearings to complete the trial within the prescribed one-

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FILIPINO

Japan eases OFW restrictions

By Jerome Aning

SENTOR LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS yesterday said Japan has conditionally agreed to withdraw its demand that the deployment to Japan of Fispino health workers be governed by a quota system.

"They've agreed to a non-quota arrangement but we've accepted some restrictions, probably the capacity of training institutions to accept a number of nurses, based on existing migration laws," said Danilo Cruz, the undersecretary for employment

The quota issue has been the major sticking point in the ongoing negotiations on a free trade agreement between the two countries that was supposed to open up Japan's health sector to Filipino health workers.

But Japan, the Philippines' second largest trading partner after the United States, wants to limit to 100 the number of Filipino health workers allowed to work there

Filipino murses and certified caregivers would be allowed into Japan only after completing training on Nihongo and other subjects in preparation for obtaining their Japanese license.

The Philippines has been insisting on a "demand-based* deproyment of nurses and caregivers to Japan where the market for their services is quite large because of the country's rapidly aging population.

These are still not the final results of the negotiations, but there is already a common understanding. There's a specific provision there that there would be no quota arrangements. It's almost done, only the legal wording is being finalized," he said.

Cruz said that the soon to-be-finalized agreement provides that the six-month training process would be be done in Japan. He said the Japanese would take the responsibility of training the Filipino workers at no cost to the Philippines.

But we still have not determined the capacity of the training institutions, that will be determined in the implementation," he said.

The two countries also have yet to determine how large the initial deployment would be "but it will be continuous and not one-time," Cruz said.

Cruz, who is part of the Filipino negotiating team, stressed that the new dea, was just a portion. of the treaty, officially called the Japan-Philippines

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, May 12, 2006 4th Week of Easter Nereus and Achilleus/Pancras Acts 13.26-33 1st Reading: John 14:1-6

Gospel: Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubied, trust in God and trust in me. In my Pather's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I

am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Pather but

through me."

Commentary Like Peter, Poul preaches the story of Jesus, rejected, crucified and raised from the dead. And he proclaims Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of the prophets: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you." And this is the message we take to heart; we are all the sons and daughters of God. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and we came to the Father with Jesus' own Spirit, and we come together. Grace given to us that comes to us through others.

Isabel G. Castillo; 85 2896-6000

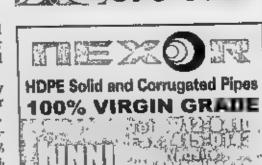
aria Paz at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Paramaque City.

After a Mass at 2:30 p.m. on May 17, her ashes will be interred beside the grave of her husband, Dr. Benjamin A. Castillo.

A resident of Canada for the and 10 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held on May 9 at a local Catholic church, after which her remains were cremated.

Castillo is survived by her children, Benjie, Maribel, Randy, Bobby and Tod, their spouses,



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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A politician's gift

RESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO'S OFFICIAL visit to Saudi Arabia was most remarkable not for what it achieved, but for what it dispelled. For months, the President had been hounded by rumors that she was keen on polishing her image by traveling abroad However, as even personalities identified as close to, or influential with, the administration kept talking about

the President's desire to go abroad, the EDITORIAL hints kept hitting a blank wall of official indifference overseas. This was especially true days before the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, when Ms Arroyo was said to have been particularly eager to visit either the United States or Saudi Arabia.

That the President finally got to go to the Middle East, firmly dispels the notion that she is a kind of international pariah. And it accorded her the opportunity to do what she does best: putting her best foot forward overseas. Philippine presidents have always relished "showing the flag" abroad, and it is fair to say Ms Arroyo does so with panache.

Presidential visits are more than about bantam-style strutting on the world stage, of course. Ms Arroyo went to Saudi Arabia with three objectives in mind: to negotiate some kind of favorable guarantees concerning oil supplies; to lobby for the observer status for the Philippines in the Organization of Islamic Countries, and to intercede for her fellow citizens. With regard to oil, the President is now trumpeting achievements that may be so rhetorical as to be essentially meaningless. In terms of the decadeslong lobbying effort for the country to sit in the OIC, she suffered no public reversal, so it can be claimed as a diplomatic move forward. As to her appeal to the king of Saudi Arabia to extend clemency to Filipinos who had run afoul of the law, that clearly was an overwhelming success.

The President's visit underscores the reality that she is a better politician than economist. That is to say, she has the politician's gift for squeezing the most publicity and media mileage from what may be fairly inconsequential business talks. In the Saudi Arabian scheme of things, guaranteeing a steady price for oil to the Philippines isn't a priority; and even if it were, far larger factors can always intrude into whatever commitments the Saudi monarch and his government may have made Continued regional instability focusing on Iran and American aggressiveness toward that country, the insatiable thirst for oil of China, and India's rapidly expanding economy could sustain the roller coaster-like fluctuations of crude prices due to limited supplies.

Still, the President was received by the new Saudi king. She got to meet and greet Filipino workers, and following her home was the first batch among hundreds of Filipinos languishing in Saudi jails. On that score alone, her trip was worth it, and deserves the nation's appreciation. Still, the President's efforts placed a spotlight on the tragic side of the OFW experience. And the question is, what sort of follow-through there will be.

To have so many Filipinos in jail in a foreign country points to the challenges they face, and these include problems not of their own making. Unfair and oppressive contracts, inferior and degrading working conditions, the lack of adequate treaty safeguards for Filipinos overseas—all these are problems that OFWs have endured for decades, but which remain, on the whole, eternally prob-Jematic. We must add, as well, the often anecdotal evidence of Filipinos and other overseas workers being persecuted for their religious beliefs, or subjected to maitreatment because of their gender. As the guardian of the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina, the king of Saudi Arabia has religious responsibilities supported by an infrastructure of religious policing and regulation. And while officially tolerant, the accounts of just how intolerant the Saudi government can be in terms of religion is well

Therefore, having spoken up for so many imprisoned Pilipinos, the President would do well to build on the success of her visit and negotiate agreements with the Saudi government that will prevent the abuse and persecution of Filipinos. She could assume a leading role for other nations that find themselves in a situation similar to ours, the nations that depend on the sweat and toil of their citizens abroad, but whose governments do little to protect their rights.



Setting the record straight (2)

(Continued from May 10)

I APOLOGIZE TO READERS WHO MAY BE bored by this narration of this problem among neighboring subdivisions over vehicle sticker fees, but this problem is not unique. Many other villages have similar problems and this column may help their residents understand the Neal H. Cruz issues and find a solution. Besides, a letter to the editor from the presidents of three subdivisions last April 24 contained falsehoods and inaccuracies which, if not corrected, may give the wrong impression to readers

For example, the letter said that "the Mira Nila clubhouse was built with the help of public funds." False. The clubhouse was built by the homeowners before Dante Liban and Chuck Mathay became congressmen. What Mathay did was put a roof over an existing basketball court during the 2004 election campaign. The funds came from his pork barrel, but curiously it was a billboard proclaiming that it was a project of President Macapagal-Arroyo, complete with her smiling face, that was put up beside the project. Nothing about Mathay.

What Liban did was pay the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation to plant tree seedlings and put up picule tables and lighting in an existing forest park. The picnic tables and lighting system are gone now. The wooden tables rotted away and the light bulbs and buried electric wares were stolen. The Japanese style stone lanterns were vandalized by squatters. Residents of neighboring subdivisions now play in the courts and emoy the pack.

The letter also said that "the main roads of the subdivision were given a new coat of asphalt, again with the help of the Quezon City government." Only half-true. Not all the main roads, but only those leading to Maries and the other subdivisions. The reason is that they were so battered by the great number of vehicles passing through and by numerous diggings by the government for water connections. Whose are the vehicles passing through? Guess.

As I SEE IT

Shouldn't they be repaired by the government in exchange for the taxes the residents are paying?

The letter also said that "we pay Tierra Pura 2400 per sticker, P200 of which goes to Mira Ni la Not satisfied with this cut, the homeowners' association has unilaterally decided to charge us P500 for a stucker which was P250 in the past. Worse, it charges its own residents only P250 for their stickers Their guards shake down every school bus and delivery vehicle that enters through the Mira Nila gates."

The Tierra Pura sticker is for the main sixlane Teodoro M. Kalaw Street (hence, it is called the TMK sticker). Half of it is in Tierra Pura and the other half in Mira Niia. Each village maintains its portion of TMK. So, they split the fee.

The protesters kept repeating in their petition with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (they have a similar petition with the Quezon City government and still another with a court-a case of forum-shopping) that Mira Nila is selling "another TMK sticker." False again. What Mira Nila is issuing is a Mira Nila sticker for the use not of TMK but of the other streets leading to the entrances of the other subdivisions. Mira Nila security men guard these entrances. These subdivisions have other access routes to Tandang Sora and Luzon Avenue. Their residents can actually use these routes and avoid buying Mira Nila stickers, but they prefer to pass through Mira Nila for convemence. Well, they have to pay for the convenience while Mira Nila residents are inconventenced by so many "outsider" vehicles passing through their streets and producing so much noise, diskt, air pollution and traffic congestion

That is why villages like Embassy and Tierra Pure 6, which have no alternate routes, are charged only half, like the Mira Nila residents who, by the way, also pay P400 monthly membership dues, including those whose houses are on T.M. Kalaw, and thus rarely use other Mira Nila streets

As for the school buses and delivery trucks, they are commercial vehicles operated for profit. They are heavy vehicles that cause more wear and tear on the streets. Shouldn't they pay for passing through private streets?

Why has Mira Nila increased its sticker fees? Well, don't they know that prices of everything are rising? The power rate for the street lights has risen. The price of gasoline for the grass cutters and blowers go up every week. The prices of construction materials have also gone up.

The petition of Maries Village with the HLURB is also full of false claims. It said, "T.M. Kalaw Street and Alondras Street are public roads... maintained by the city government." Faise. They are maintained by the Homeowners' Association. They were repaired only once by the city because of so many public diggings Passersby can see the repairs and street improvements now going on. They're all being

funded by Mira Nila residents. To summarize, those (pardon the expression) "freeloaders" and "tightwads" who don't want to pay for car stickers are free to do so. All they have to do is avoid passing through TMK and use the other access routes. If they still want the convenience of passing through TMK without paying, they can leave an acceptable ID with

the security guard When Congressional Avenue is finished, they will have direct routes to their subdivisions. They will no longer have to pass through Tierra Pure and Mira Nila and will not have to pay for car stickers. So instead of pressuring City Hall, the HLURB and the courts to stop Mira Nila from usuing car stickers, shouldn't they be pressuring the national government to finish Congressional Avenue quickly?

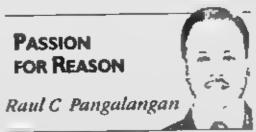
UP study on NorthRail: Some clarifications

THE NORTHRAIL CAMPAIGN AGAINST ITS critics was revived recently, especially after the Supreme Court struck down Executive Order 464, a gag order that banned executive officials from testifying before legislative hearings, and which Malacañang issued and invoked one day before the Senate was about to Raul C Pangalangan hold a hearing on the NorthRail project.

In Senate of the Philippines v. Ermita, the Supreme Court noted that the Senate scheduled a "public hearing sparked by a privilege speech of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile urging the Senate to investigate the alleged overpricing and other unlawful provisions of the . NorthRail Project." Sen. Mirram Defensor-Santiago had also criticized the project for being overpriced, while Sen. Richard Gordon had lamented that it fails to respond to the needs of the Subic and Clark economic zones.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, acting upon the Senate resolution, had referred the matter to the UP Law Center for study, I was then law dean, and I convened severa. faculty members to conduct the study, among them, the venerable Bartolome C. Pernandez Jr., former senior commissioner and general counsel of the Commission on Audit and author of the leading work on state contracts; Dean Merlin M. Magaliona, former undersecretary of foreign affairs; Prof. Harry Roque, who went to the University of Michigan for coilege and to the London School of Economics for his LL.M., currently director of the International Legal Studies Institute; Florin Hilbay, 1999 bar topnotcher, Yale LL.M and currently vice chair of Bantay Katarungan; Solomon Lumba, 2000 bar topnotcher and currently also teaching law at UP I told these professors something that ! was sure they already knew; this was an independent study, and they were free to make their own findings, which I would then transmit to the Senate.

The panel concluded that the NorthRail contract had been improperly packaged as an executive agreement. The Supreme Court has elsewhere ruled that executive agreements are treaties and are governed by the 1969 Vienna



Convention on the Law of Treaties---which means that only sovereign states can enter into these agreements. In other words, the NorthRail agreements were signed with Chinese corporations, not sovereign states, and were improper. Moreover, as an executive agreement, it would have evaded the open and competitive public bidding required under Republic Act 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act

Since then, NorthRail has embarked on a publicity campaign against the UP Law Center, and indeed one of its spokesmen even asked for the abolition of the Law Center itself! A few

clarifications are in order. One, the very first legal opinion of the UP Law Center on the NorthRail project in fact was issued in May 2005, months before GMA's crisis of legitimacy broke out when the existence of the Garci tapes was announced by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. It was made by the Law Center's Institute of Government and Law Reform. Neither Roque nor I was part of it, since it had been directly addressed to the instatute's director, Prof. Carmelo Sison. That request was made by Sen. Joker Arroyo for the Senate blue ribbon committee, and not by the Senate president. It was limited to just one of the contracts involved, and did not touch on the rules that require a public bidding.

And what did that study say? That indeed it could not have been a valid executive agreement, and that the Constitution requires the concurrence of the Monetary Board for foreign loans contracted or guaranteed by the Republic. The UP Law Center has been criticized for being part of the post-Gazei politics between Drilon and GMA, yet it began the study even before the Garci scandal erupted.

Second, it has been said that the UP Law Center had wrongly attributed the project to the China National Machinery & Equipment Corp. (CNMEC), rather than CNMEG (the CN-ME Group, which is supposedly more reputable than the former). Was it a mistake indeed? I have looked at copies of the relevant documents. Both these terms have been used by NorthRail itself, in both the contract papers

and its own public statements The Contract Agreement was with "China National Machinery & Equipment Corporation (Group)." The Conditions of Contract was signed with "China National Machinery & Equipment Corporation (Group) (CNMEG)." Indeed, NorthRail's own full-page advertisement used these terms interchangeably, which is understandable given the contract papers cited above. This whole game of acronyms, mind you, does not release NorthRail from having to explain the bypassing of a public bidding through the improper use of an executive

agreement Third, some NorthRail spokesmen have asked why the UP Law Center conducted the study at all, yet its own charter expressly mandates the Law Center to undertake legal studies upon request by the Senate acting "in aid of leg islation." Historically, how can UP academics be faulted if they issue a legal opinion that politicos of various hues contest? (Congress itself requested some law deans, myself included, to give a legal opinion on whether the Garci tapes were admissible in evidence. So, private law schools can speak, but not UP? Wow.)

The media attacks are clever twice over They amount to old-style squid tactics in propaganda, so that all of a sudden the issue is no longer whether executive agreements are a valid way to short-circuit the requirement of a public bidding—but instead, the issue is the UP Law Center, it is time for NorthRail to ad dress the actual legal issues, instead of slaying the bearers of bad news that came in the form of a legal opinion it so abhors.

Comments to passionforreason@zmail.com

OPINION

A silent rebellion against the Church

THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE NATIONal Statistical Coordination Board that the Philippines' annual population growth rate slowed down to 1 95 percent last year, from 21.1 percent during 2000 and 2004 gave the National Economic and Development Authority a rare opportunity to claim that the rate was approaching the government's medium-term target of 1.94 per-

Economists who have been calling for a more aggressive government campaign to curb population growth are not impressed. For example, Prof. Ernesto Pernia of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, pointed out that a 1.95 growth rate is unsustainable and that it is higher compared with other developing countries in Asia. He accurately described the government's efforts to bring down the population growth rate (if ever there has been any) as "practically nil." He that added programs to promote birth control have not been enough.

When Romulo Nerl, Neda's director general, said the drop in the rate made the government's poverty-reduction goal attainable, he was overstating the virtually non-existent government efforts to arrest population growth.

Shifting the perspective away from the self-serving official claims, we are led to the interpretation that the new statistics are a signal to the Catholic Church, the foremost obstacle to a reasonable management of the country's population explosion, that its influence is waning among the poor in its effort to prevent them from resorting to contraceptives to reduce the number of their children.

The statistics should warn the Church that the poor, who comprise the majority of the population and who have the largest families among the social classes, are not paying attention to its injunctions against the use of contraceptives and similar birth control methods, and are reducing the size of their families in response to the dire

THIS PAPER CARRIED A HEARTWARMING "PO-

sitive" story on the front page yesterday about a

family (a widow and her two adult children) living

in an urban poor area in Vitas, Tondo, who, despite

their meager daily budget of P50 a day, adopted

economic consequences of having too many mouths to feed.

trol on slender or empty pockets, and they are staging a silent rebellion against the Church's approach to population control. This rebellion should be a cue to conservative governments that the threat of the Church's political retaliation through denial of its support is a phantom and thus, there is no valid reason to be timid about

ment could have more dramatic results in its

It is an issue on which the Church cannot hold the administration hostage for fear of political fallout. The administration is more likely to lose in its conflict with the Church on issues other than

on artificial birth control. Population control is an issue with which the government could broaden its constituency among the poor. Whatever the Church says, the poor are likely to avail themseives of any means to lift themselves from poverty. The number of children they will have in their families will be determined by economics. The upper classes have already made their own decisions in determining their social and economic mobility. They have fewer children than the poor. Economics determined their decisions.

According to Neri, Neda's 1.94 percent target will enhance the country's chances of hitting its poverty-reduction target over the medium term. The target is to reduce the proportion of the population living below the poverty line from 45.3 percent in 1991 to 22.7 percent by 2015. The proportion of the population living in poverty in 2003 stood at 30.4 percent. With this reduction rate, the Philippines has virtually paid lip service to its commitment, under the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, to reduce the number of people living in poverty to 22.7 percent of the population.

Neri has therefore no reason to crow over the 1.95 rate of population growth. The Arroyo administration had nothing to do with it. The government has washed its hands of the populationcontrol program by entrusting to local governments the responsibility for the determination of "appropriate measures." It has passed the buck to local governments in order to avoid the political repercussions arising from the Church's opposition to the program through its nationwide net-

work of parishes. The main source of contraceptives in the country is foreign donation, particularly from the United Nations Population Fund. There is no government machinery that provides free access to contraceptives and information about family planning and birth control.

The other day, I stumbled upon the "State of the World's Mothers' report for 2006 compiled by Save the Children USA. Apparently, they've been doing this global report card for a few years now, rating and ranking countries as to how mother-friendly they are by using several indicators, which I'll describe

PINOY

FILIPINOS LIKE TO BOAST ABOUT HOW MUCH WE LOVE

our mothers, but I've often wondered how much of that lov-

Before looking at the indicators let's

Global mamas

ing translates into real caring

shortly.

look at the Philip- Michael L. Tan pines' ranking for the Mothers' Index, relative to the world, and to Asia. Globally, among 125 countries, the Philippines ranked almost exactly midway at 63rd. Other Asian countries had the following ranks: Japan was 12th, China and Thailand 39th, Vietnam 44th, Malaysia 52nd, Indonesia and Sri Lanka 69th, India 93rd, Laos 94th, Bangladesh 106th, Cambodia, Nepal

and Pakistan 107th. How was the Mothers' Index constructed? Save the Children combined several indicators to construct a Women's Index and a Children's Index, which were then combined to yield the Mother's Index. This research method makes sense since a mother's situation depends on how she is treated as a woman, and how much of support services are available for children.

The indicators for the Women's Index are lifetime risk of maternal mortality, percent of births attended by skilled personnel, percent of pregnant women with anemia, percent of women using modern family planning, literacy rate for adult females and percent of national government seats held by

For the Children's Index, the indicators are infant mortal ty rate (how many children die before the age of one), ped cent of children enrolled in primary school, percent of popular lation with access to safe water and percent of children un der the age of 5 who suffer from moderate or severe nuti tional wasting.

Certainly, the indicators themselves will have limitational For example, the percentage of women with national government seats is very important for advancing women's (and mothers') concerns but, as we only too sadly know in the Philippines, even having a woman President does not necessarily mean we have a champion for women's issues.

Mother frieadliest

I'm sure we can all think of many other indicators we'd) like included in both the Women's Index and Children's Index, but when you're trying to compare more than a hung dred countries, you have to be quite selective in choosing the

The global report card for mothers does allow us to draw? some insights as to how countries might become more morth? er friendly. When I first glanced at the rankings, I could all ready tell that the situation of mothers does not correlate. with a country's economic status

The oil-rich Middle Eastern countries ranked lower than the Philippines (Saudi Arabia was a dismal 83rd) The Unit² ed States, the world's most economically powerful countif's only ranked 10th with the Mothers' index because us health. ample, is even higher than those of some developing 5949.

Similarly, Japan, the world's second largest economy, only ranked 12th in the Mothers' Index, the poorest performed among industrialized countries. This shouldn't be surprising since women's status continues to lag far behind men's uf that bastion of male conservatism. The contraceptive put, 192 example, was not approved in Japan until a few years ago, with Japanese women's groups grumbling that it took theil government more than 30 years to do so and less than a year to allow Viagra for the men-

Not surprisingly, the Scandinavian countries topped the league for mothers, with Sweden leading the pack, followed by Denmark and Finland. These social-welfare states are well known for their package of benefits for mothers, including maternal leaves for as long as two years.

If you look at the Asian countries that do well in the Moth ers' Index, you'll find that they too generally have strong state-supported social services. Note that it isn't just heakly services that count. Save the Children's report has extensive, discussions on the importance of girls' access to education Countries where girls are taken out of schools early will also fare poorly with women's and children's health.

Surrogate mothers Being madway in the global rankings tells us we're not dog, ing too badly, but we certainly can do much more. Our health, centers are good, with services like immunizations and prenatal care, but we're neglecting one vital area, which is famil ly planning. A new twist to this neglect is the way we seem to want to wish away the problem, through the statistics. The inquiren's front page yesterday quoted Socio-economic Seq! retary Romulo Neri as claiming that the population growth rate has dropped. But how can he make this claim when we, haven't had a national census since the year 2000, canceling the 2005 census supposedly because government had no

Our mothers deserve more than headline statistics and publicity gimmicks, like the city of Manila herding in more than 3,000 mothers so it could claim a new world record of simultaneous breastfeeding. This in a city that bans the promotion of "artificial" family planning in its health cent ters.

There is one indicator that is important if we really wand to assess our situation, and this is the number of motherswho are forced, by economic circumstances, to work overseas, separated from their children. I have no exact figures, by I am certain this runs into a million at the very least. We have to remember, too, it's not just overseas work that sepa rates mothers from their children; many of our rural womers. end up working in urban households as domestic helpers) leaving their children behind.

This Mother's Day, in many countries throughout the world, children will be honoring Filipino nannies and house, keepers who have become their second mothers. Many Filip mas aren't just global nannies, they're now global nanays. global mamas, often at great cost to their own children back home. This Mother's Day then, we would do well to honodi the country's many surrogate mothers—the aunts, grandmothers, godmothers, adoptive mothers and many others; men included-who try to fill the vacuum, no questions asked, no conditions on the love for the children they've taken into their homes.

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Amando Doronila

The poor are voting on the issue of birth conpushing a population-control program. The new statistics also suggest that the govern-

poverty-reduction program if it pursues a more aggressive population-control program, and that such a program is not a political liability. There is a natural constituency for the program among the poor who appear receptive to easier access to contriceptives promoted by the state. There have been a number of issues on which Church and state (or government) interests have collided, among them constitutional revision, the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the opening of the mining industry to wider participation by foreign mining interests, justerny and the ban on logging in primary forests, but population control cannot be a damaging issue for an administration pushing it aggressively.

What about the teenage mom?



I appland Sally and her two children for

Sandin, and I can only admire their courage

and generosity in taking in a child and de-

ciding to raise him despite knowing that it

meant putting further strain on their limited

resources. Adoption is indeed a most won-

derful solution to unwanted births and preg-

nancies, giving both child and adoptive par-

ents what they most need and want: a fami-

ly. But with the number of unwanted-mist-

imed, unplanned pregnancies exceeding 50

percent in this country, adoption is hardly a

practical response. It may make for wonder-

ful human-interest stories, but it is hardly

the rational, effective program that our pop-

The story on Sandin contains a caudomary

note, in fact. The boy's biological mother

showed up recently to look in on the box, and

she was not just accompanied by a new

boyfriend, but was pregnant with another

child. Sally and Sandin may have made it to

the front pages, but who's looking out for

Sandin's mother and the children she may yet

THERE seems to be more behind the sacking of

Salvacion "Sally" Bulatao, who until recently was

head of the National Dairy Authority (NDA).

Malacañang issued a press release last week an-

nouncing the dismissal of officials who were al-

legedly found guilty of graft and corruption, Bu-

lodged against Bulatan as well as her reply to

them, and what strikes the reader most sharply is

Ceres Doyo yesterday detailed the charges

ulation problem demands.

the unwanted baby boy of a teenage mother. The story, written by Christian Esquerra, traced the background of the adoption of Sandin Lee, who has just turned one. His birth mother, then 18 years old and pregnant with her second child, had told Sally Ruiz, 58, the adoptive mothopening their home and their hearts to er-to-be, that she wanted to undergo an abortion, feeling she wasn't up to the demands of parenthood. Sally, a counselor on natural family planning in her area, told Esguerra she was in the throes of an "empty nest" syndrome herself, yearning for company since her two adult children were away at work for most of the day, and so thought of adopting the girl's child. It was also her way of ensuring that the girl did not push

through with her planned abortion, she said. In one part of his story, Esguerra said the story behind the boy's adoption "illustrates the continung battle between the 'pro-life' camp, which frowns on contraception or abortion as a means of controlling population growth, and the 'prochoice' sector, which advocates a strong information campaign and the availability of family planning methods to couples."

I BEG to disagree.

Sandin's story illustrates, for me, the need precisely for a strong information campaign on reproductive health and family planning, and for the availability of services, particularly to poor young women like Sandin's mother. (Besides, neither does the "pro-choice sector" believe that abortion should be pushed as a "family planning" method.)

What kind of counseling did Sandun's mother receive in school, at home or from other significant adults in her life? Being a teenager, was she able to access full and accurate information on relationships, sexuality and the means to protect herself from the unwanted consequences of unprotected sex, such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections?

the relatively purry nature of her alleged offenses, and the very reasonable explanations she offered.

What Doyo did not mention is that Sally's husband Gerry, who apart from being an "activist and intellectual" has also previously served as an undersecretary at the Department of Agrarian Reform, is also one of the convenors of the Black and White Movement, a broad coalition of groups and individuals advocating good governance, including ferreting out the truth behind the "Hello Garci* controversy.

Malacañang will, of course, have perfectly reasonable-sounding explanations not just for Sally's dismissal, but also the destruction of her reputation and good name. Meanwhile, a Black and White spokesperson wonders: "What is the PAGC doing about people like Joc Joc Bolante? What is the Ombudsman doing about the Comelec? Absolutely nothing."

A MASS of the Resurrection will be held at 9 this morning at the Miriam College Chapel in memory of Sr. Miriam Thomas Thornton, MM, 96, who passed away last May 7.

Sr. Miriam Thomas is best remembered in the Philippines as having served as president of Maryknoll College from 1968-1976. When decided to relinquish control of the college to a board composed of lay people, the choice of the new name "Miriam College" for the institution was attributed, in part, to the esteem with which the comminity and alumni held Sr. Miriam Thomas.

She spent much of her religious life in the Philippines, which was her first mission assignment in 1934, serving as a high school teacher in Baguio until 1942 when she was interned in Los Baños along with other Americans until 1945. After the war, she taught in Lucena and in the Quezon City campus, leaving for the United States for further studies and to take on other duties, until her return to the country in 1968.

Ill health necessitated her return to Maryknoll, NY in 1996 where she entered Residential Care. Sr. Miriam Thomas had been a Maryknoll Sister for 76 years, and was buried in the Sisters cemetery yesterday.

Lost in translation

THERE ARE SO MANY HISTORICAL ASSOCIAtions in the country that one will find it hard to count them ail. Three are national: Philippine Historical Association, Philippine National Historical Society and Adhika. The rest are local, and the two most active in terms of activities and publications are the Kapampangan Studies Center and the Cavite Historical Society.

Last Friday, I found myself in Port San Felipe, Cavite City, which is run by the Philippine Navy. This is the site of the historic uprising that led to the execution of Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora in 1872. This had completely slipped my mind when I accepted the invitation to deliver remarks during the launch of yet another publication of the Cavite Historical Society, "Chabacano Studies: Essays on Cavite's Chabacano Language and Literature," by Emmanuel Lois A. Romanillos. Thus, it was a double treat to walk around what is left of historic Fort San Felipe and also to hear a dialogue that highlighted spoken Cavite Chabacano, which is Spanish-based, and Ternate Chabacano, which is Portuguese-based.

There is so much history embedded in language it's a pity that the use of Chabacano has dwindled when it used to be widely spoken in Zamboanga, Cavite and pre-war Ermita. The few instances I heard snatches of Chabacano when I was growing up was when some old people played cards or mahjong. The late former mayor of Zemboanga, Maria Clara Lobregat, kept a pile of Chabacano dictionaries by her desk to give as gifts to friends and visitors, I regret not browsing through it, because during the recent negotiations for the RP-Mexico Joint Commission on Cultural and Educational Cooperation in Mexico City, our man from the Department of Foreign Affairs taught us some invented Chabacano phrases to confound our Mexican counterparts. The most memorable of these were: "Cosa ba ese?" (translation: Ano be tyan?), "morisqueta tostada"

LOOKING BACK Ambeth R. Ocampo

latao among them.



(sinangag) and my favorite, "No se can vosotros!" (Ewan ko sa inyof). Sounds Spanish, but if you have a good ear, you will notice that it is not quite Spanish.

When Cesar E.A. Virata, president of the Cavite Historical Society, invited me to deliver remarks at the book launching, I accepted without thinking, presuming wrongly that the book would be yet another Chabacano grammar or dictionary that one did not read from cover to cover. These books are best consigned to the reference shelf and consulted only when needed. To prepare, I read a postcard in Chabacano that Rizal sent Pedro Paterno and, of course, the hilarious Chahacano dialogue preserved in Chapter 28 of "El Filibusterismo" that, more often than not, gets lost in translation. I planned to display some erudition at the launch, only to have the rug pulled from under my feet because when the book arrived in the office, the day before, I saw that the author had tackled Rizal and Chabacano in his work.

Having re-read Rizal and Chabacano so closely, Romanillos found some interesting items that slipped by me because these tend to be "lost in translation" as well. For example, in a letter from Evaristo Aguirre to Rizal, dated May 1887, is a line that reads: "finticl: bueno sono topo rayo con todo este mga findut de cachichao!" in the 1961 English translations of Rizal's correspondence, Encarnacion Aizona rendered this rude line as: Lincici it will be good if lightning strikes these Castilasi" in a footnote that should not be over-

looked, Romanillos remarked, "According to Cavite City folks, the vicuperative phrase mgu jindut di cochechao literally means 'persons with I-g foul-smelling feet' which Alzona's imaginative translation refers to Castilians!"

Romanillos also found another example of something lost in translation in the textbook biography of Rizal by Gregorio and Sonia Zaide. To magnify Rizar's linguistic gifts, they cited a letter Rizal wrote to Pernando Canon in July 1887, describing the nationalities of 50 different passengers traveling with him on the steamer Djemnah and stated that Rizal was the only Filipino on board and that being multilingual he acted as interpreter in this floating Tower of Babel. While the Zaide tandem over-read by stating that Rizal acted as translator for others, they also under-read by ignoring the two other Chabacano-speaking Filipines (early OFWs?) on board that Rizal engaged in a game of chess. The Zaides also missed out on two English prostitutes accompanying three Chinese men: in Rizal's racial catalogue, he recorded "3 chines con des p. ingleses." One can guess the four-letter word abbreviated by Rizal here.

The Romanillos book not only situates Cavite Chabacano in its proper socio-historico-cultural context, it also provides an anthology of Chabacano literature for our appreciation. The rhymes on food are particularly fascinating. Language as a mirror of culture and society once made me consider linguistics as a field of specialization, but when I realized that linguistics took the humanities out of language and reduced it to abstract, almost algebraic, symbols, I gave up.

Through this surprisingly readable book, we hope other researchers will follow suit, to broaden not only our knowledge of languages but also our knowledge of ourselves as Filipinos.

Comments are welcome at accampo@ate-

neo.edu

Filipino dishes now a 'Dutch treat'

READ THE ARTICLE ON KULINARYA, "must-haves" every time I invite my Dutch in-laws as well as friends and ideas (2)," (PDI, 5/7/06) with great inferest because I enjoy cooking Philippine dishes and I take great pride at what we can offer the world.

Not much is known about Philippine ishes over here and so a lot of people were smazed when I introduced them to Bicol express and laing, among others. Now, these dishes are simply

I believe that dishes with coconut milk and chilis should also get priority in the 40 selected menus for showcase in the international market as they simply capture the expectations about Asian and, in particular, Philippine dishes.

-MARIA LUISA PRESTADO. mprestado@hotmail.com

Canada celebrates its cultural diversity

appalled by what a Canadian "educator" and school principal made a 7-year-oki hoy suffer for using a spoon and fork to eat. I've lived in Canada for 20 years and never did any of my teachers or peers belittle me for my cultural practices.

I am proud to say that Canada is a mul-scultural country and is proud to celebrate diversity. However, what the two

AS A FILIPINO-CANADIAN, I WAS school officials did to the boy showed pure and utter ignorance and prejudice.

Please let everyone know in the Philippines that there are good people and teachers (I'm one of them) in Canada, and that not everybody thinks the same way as the two in that school in Montre-

-GINA GARCIA-ROSI, ginagarcia rosi@telus.ntt

PINION

THE NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCtivity Commission (NWPC), an attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment, would like to clarify some points in the news item "Wage boards blamed for workers' plight." (PDI,

According to the report, the legislators blamed the regional wage boards for their failure to alleviate the plight of the workers in the last 16 years. The charges of some labor groups that the wage boards have become "pro-capitalist" are misplaced. The wage boards' tripartite composition ensures fair and adequate representation of the interests of labor, man-

agement and government. Besides, be-

fore issuing wage orders, the wage boards

are required to conduct public hearings and dehberations.

Some quarters have accused the wage boards of being slow to act on wage petitions. On the contrary, records show that the wage boards take, on the average, 45 days from the first public hearing to issue wage orders-well within the 75-day period prescribed by law. In 2005, the re-

gional boards were able to issue their new wage orders within the 30-day deadline given by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Aside from that, of the 170 wage orders issued by the boards since their creation, 104, or 61 percent, were issued motu proprio, meaning the boards themselves initiated the action or inquiry to determine the need for a wage issuance, despite the absence of a petition. It may be noted that the P125 across the board wage hike that has been regularly filed before Congress since 1999 has yet to be approved.

Regional wage boards decide wage-hike petitions in 30 days

May we also clarify the reports that the regional wage boards only granted token increases in wages and allowances, thus failing to maugate the impact of rising prices. One of the criteria used by the boards in determining fair and reasonable wage adjustments is the increase in the prices of basic goods and services. In the National Capital Region, the increases granted are almost always higher than the amount needed to compensate for the rise in prices of goods and services. Since the creation of the regional boards, the minimum wage in the NCR has been

raised by a total amount of P261 per day for every non-agricultural worker.

in closing, may we say that we welcome the suggestion of our legislators to review the relevance of RA 6727 (the law that created the wage boards) and its implementing policies and rules to make it more responsive to the present requirements of the labor market.

For one, the rules on "supervening conditions" and exemption from compliance, which are more than 10 years old, may have to be reassessed and modified. Rest assured, however, that the NWPC and its regional boards will remain steadfast in providing a decent standard of living for our workers, while ensuring the continued viability of business, our primary employment generators.

-REBECCA J. CALZADO, officer in charge, National Wages and Productivity Commission, Department of Labor and Employment, C. Licaros Building con Muralia and Victoria Sts., Intramurlos, Manila

TRADE UP YOUR OLD TV OF ANY **MAY 10-14 BRAND, WORKING OR** NATIONWIDE OTHERWISE, FOR A SAMSUNG LCD TV! **AVAILABLE IN** 26", 32", 40" and 46"

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- Choose any of the qualified Samsung LCD TV models at any of the perhapsing dealers"
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- The dealer will provide the commensurate Trade Up Value of
- your TV based on the table.
- You then pay for the remaining balance
- The dealer submits customer information to Saintsung Electronics
- The dealer them delivers the unit to you with free installation and damn through an Authorized Service Center
- Sacreumg Electronics vestes your trade up information and pulls your old writ out,

NODEL	_	CRT TV 29" and up	PUTY/ POP/ LCD Trade Up Value	OR FREE Sameurg Phone
LAZSR7	Php 92,900		Php. 15,000	30570
1A32R7	Ptsp 119,900	Php 12,000	Php:15,000)(570
LA40R7		~	Phy 32,000	0620
1.4451/51	Pho 219 900	Programme and the second	Pkp 42,000	D829

if you do not have an old TV to trade ist, you may purchase any of the quained Sansung LCD TV models and get a free Samsong handheld phone to be delivered by Samsung we counse.





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Per (17)-HCR if 2613 Sector of 2001

Let debate begin

THE OPPOSITION SHOULD THINK ABOUT other things to do other than bring President Macapagal-Arroyo down. She is the President and there is nothing the opposition can do "legally" that can change that

It is time for the opposition to put down the sword and start thinking about how to move the country forward.

It could make better use of its time, brain power, influence and resources to bring out INQ7.NET ideas to improve the state of the nation.

VOICES ON

But the opposition has this paranoia that Ms Arroyo would steal democracy and perpetuate herself and her minions in power. Does it really think the Filipino people will buy that?

We did not take to the streets and remove our previous corrupt leaders just so another dictatorial leader could take over. The opposinon must understand that those repressive days are over. Our democracy is young but it is not in dan-

ger. If it were, Ms Arroyo would be the reason and the people would once again take to the streets and defend it with their lives.

If there is anything Ms Arroyo should fear, it is the people's wrath and the verdict of history if she curtails our freedoms

So, to the opposition: Please focus on something else. Enough of this misplaced, counterproductive activism. If you really want to fight Ms Arroyo and make her irrelevant, fight her in the arena of ideas. Fight her by proposing economic and social policies that are better than hers. And then let the people decide which ideas are best for them.

Let the great policy and ideas debate to bring tangible hope begin!--E. PIO GOCO, Reston, Virginia (via e-mail)

President Arroyo should not resign but she should reform. The First Gentlemen should avoid publicity by keeping a low profile. He is one of the major reasons the President Is very unpopular. He might be a good person but there are so many negative issues hounding

I still think President Arroyo is better than what the opposition can offer. The peso is appreciating and our credit rating is improving.

The opposition should concentrate on constructive criticism and not waste its time thinking of ways to unseat the President. Its time will come. It must learn to be patient.

To our President: Please prove the opposition wrong.-Ronald Octavian C. Giongco (via e-mail)

We can get mad at everyone but that is not going to solve the country's problems. For all we know, we are the problem, the sector of the society that has brought us to where we are now.

Our population is over 85 million. Porty years ago, it was only 30 million. Nobody got hungry, there was so much to eat and we even gave aid in the form of rice to countries like Thailand. Now, food production in our country is getting less and less while the population is exploding

Who is encouraging the people to go and multiply and does nothing to help solve the country's problem? The Catholic Church has to act to save this country.-Romeo Lagamo, Honolulu (via e-mail)

Charter change to avert political crisis in the Philippines let's give it a shot. I believe it will work. We need to change a lot of things in our Constitution, as it was copied from the Ameri-

can Constitution and we are not America. It is stated in the Constitution that any Filipino citizen can run for office regardless of background. But we need educated people in government, not people who happen to be famous. I propose that no one be allowed to run for office unless he or she has a college degree.—Rachelle Navarra (via e-mail)

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarda Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 10 16 29 43 44 47 P8,000,000.00

SAMBOARGA CITY WATER DISTRICT

SECTION I, INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The Zembuerga City Weler District, through its Bids, and Awards Committee (BAC I), leviles Suppliers Nanufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for its hereunder project:

EDST OF BID DATE OF BED

Budding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary passiful criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9:56 (RuA. 9:34), otherwise inform as the Government Procusement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least study percent (80%) interest or outstanding capital study belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5:163 (RuA. 5:183). Only Bals from Biddies who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section 1 of the Bidding Occuments, TB. The badder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be obvence to the post-qualification stage in criter to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then assembled to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Boder (LCRB) who was the determined in such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Sidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and impact the Bicking documents at the address given below during office

Sads and eligibility requirements must be desirered to the address below at or before 2:00 pm May 30, 2006. All Sids must be accompanied by a Sid Security in the form of Cash, Corbifed Check, Cashair's and Intercoper's Check and in the following amount: Lot 1: P14,695:00. Lot 2: 10.100:00, Lot 3: P4,845:00 & Lot 4: P13,000:00 & Lot 5: P3,871.86. Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid Opening shall be on May Sil, 2006 at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Prior St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to et

The ZAMBCANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the effected Ekider or Bidders.

DOCUMENTS

1,500,000.00 \$,500.00 | May 15 10, 1006 | May 23, 2006 | Jam 6, 7006 | 387,185,00 | 500.00 | May 15-19, 2006 | Boy 23, 2006 | Jam 6, 2006

CONFLICENCE IND

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO

P 1,000,00 May 8-16, 2006 May 10, 2006 May 30, 2006

1,500.50 May 2-14, 2006 May 13, 2006 May 30, 2006

580.00 New 15-19, 2004 May 23, 2006 Jone 5, 2006

APPROVED ECOST OF AND THE CONTRACT (APC)

P 1,469,509.00

LOT MARE DESCRIPTION

1 993 BAGS DE 1257 CONTRACTOR INCOME.

2 Water Meters storm 15" 7" 3" 2.4"B

hours (8.00 5:00cm).

Traders say outage cost Cebu P100M in losses

By Jhunnex Napallacan PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY-THE EIGHT-HOUR BLACKOUT that hit Cebu on Wednesday had caused an estimated P60 million to P100 million in losses to the business sector in Metro Cebu.

Carlos Co, chair of the Cebu Power Core Group (CPCG), said this huge loss due to the power outage made it imperative for the Cebu private and government sectors to come together to find other means of meeting their power needs.

Co said many establishments-from retail stores to manufacturing firms—suspended operations due to lack of generator sets or because their generator sets were only designed to handle power outages lasting an hour or more.

Eric Mendoza, Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) president, said about 30 percent of the more than \$,000 business establishments in the city were forced to shut down because of the lack of power.

Robert Go, regional governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI-Central Visayas), sald Cebu should not be dependent on power plants in Leyte or power coming from the Leyte-Cebu Interconnection Project (LCIUP)

Under the LCIUP or the Visayas grid, the islands of Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Bohol, Negros and Panay are interconnected via submarine cables, with geothermal power generated in Tongonan, Leyte as the main source of electricity.

Going on its own

Go said Cebu should have its own land based power plants "so that we cannot be affected in future calamines of other areas like what had happened last Wednesday"

When a minor quake struck Leyte, the supply of power for Cebu automatically tripped off because Cebu relies on the LCIUP

the power plants in Barangay Tongonan in Ormoc City as a result of the tremor also caused blackouts in Leyte and Samar provinces (Eastern Visayas), Ne-

gros Oriental and Bohol (Central Visayas) and Negros Occidental and Panay Island provinces (Western Visayas). Only Siquijor was spared from the blackout as it was not connected to the

Visayas grid. "What's very important is that we should have land-based power plants so that we will not be dependent on the interconnection. Interconnection had actually solved the lack of power for Cebu, but we are too much dependent on interconnection," Go said.

Co, who is also the immediate vice president of the PCCI-Central Visayas, said a meeting would be called next week of members of the CPCG to discuss Cebu's power situation.

CPCG is composed of the Visayan Electric Company (Veco), National Transmission Corp. (Transco), National Power Corp. (Napocor), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Cebu Private Power Corp., Toledo Power Corp. and the business sector.

Dependence

Cebu relies mainly on power supplied by the Leyte plants, using 360 megawatts of the 700 MW they produce.

Napocor's corporate staff specialist, Mosses Red, said-Gebu's daily power consumption reaches 450 MW, with the balance provided by Napocor's power plant in Naga town and independent power suppliers Cebu Private Power Corp. and Mirant Philip-

Eduardo Eroy, Napocor vice president for thermal generation and Visayas head, said power The emergency shutdown of supply to the grid was fully restored by 6:11 p.m. Wednesday, about eight hours after the quake hit Leyte Island. With a report by Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas

E Court revives Golden Buddha case

OFWs told: Avoid eulture shock

🖪 Sta. Rosa mayor

tanker in Bataan /A18



Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY

APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF FOREIGN

AIR CARRIER'S PERMIT (FACP) UNDER THE LIBERALIZED CHARTER PROGRAM

CAR CASE NO. 28084

HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 775, as amended, nonce is hereby given that HONGKONG EXPRESS ARRWAYS LIMITED has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAR) an application for the resuance of Foreign Air Camer's Permit under the Liberalized Charter Program. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 17 May 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Matro Manile before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall

The applicant is hereby required to have this Motice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that copies of this nutice and the application itself be served upon Philippine Artifles, Inc., 4 Cebu Pacific Air. Air Philippines Corporation, Asien Spirit and CR Arways, Ltd., either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at linest tive (5) days before this

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must like their written opposition or or before the date of the hearing furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appears at the hearing with such evidence as oury be proper under the premises. Failure of on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Chill Assonautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its energ.

Let a copy of this application and this Notice be pushed at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

21 April 2006 Pasay City, Philippines

Hearing Officer

CE: ATTY, ANTHONY T. ZAMORA Counsel for Applicant Hongkong Express Airways Ltd. ZAMORA MORAPLOR BRAYO & ASSOCIATES Suite 707 Cayland 10 Tower 1 Geronian Street cor. Ayata Avenue Horth Salcedo Village, Maketi City (PDI April 28, May 5 & 12, 2306)

WHAT'S INSIDE

/A19

doubles security after attack /A21

8 2 welders injured as blast rips oil



Republic of the Philippines PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE! Lagu-taph City
Tel. Nos. 3400590, 3400594, 3400581, Tidefax No. 3402949 Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Sids and Awards Committee (BAC), invests all interested butters to apply for enginery and if found eligible, no bid for the hereunder contract. Harve of Contract.

Proposed Aspival Overlay Project of MEZ-Phose II

MEZ I. Lapu-tapu City Scoppy of Later, Manestals, Equipment and Supervision for Proposed Asphali **Bael Description**

Overlay Project of ME Z-Phase II

2AMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT

Mr. Noel M. Kavaguchi Piler St., Zamboange City 7000 Talephone No. (USZ) 991-1556

Empl; Fax: (062) 991-2799

(PPH: New 12, 2006)

30 catendar days 100 Prospective budgers should prospess a valid PCAB Licensa applicable to the contract, have completed similar contract with a value at least 50% of the ABC within the last times years, and have lary personned and own equipment issed below available for the prosecution of the contract: - Road Roller

Aspisals Batching Place (production 50 M.T. per hc.) Preumatic Roller Aspent Demotor

Domp Trucks

Demotor Trucks

The EAC will the inter-discretionary present of fertiling the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary & sammation of State. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the kneest epiculated bid.

"All personalizes relative to Englishy Statement and Screening. Bid Security. Performance Security. Pre-Bidding

Landerence. Explusions of Bids. Post Couldication and Americal Contract shall be governed by the partnersh

provisions of R.A. 9184 and as implementing Rules and Regulation (RR). The schedule of BAC activities is as follows.

 Receipt from prospective builders of Letters of Intext (LOQ) with application for eligibility May 12-23, 2006 May 15-24, 2006 2. Issuance of Eligibility forms May 25, 2006 5:00 p.m. 3 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements Coodinte Motice of Result of Eligibility Check June 6-9, 2006 5 Issuance of Bid Documents June 13, 2006 6. Pre-bid Conterence June 29, 2006 200 p.m. 7 Receipt & Opering of Bills

Eligibility Forms are available at MEZ BAC Secretaries, 25° PEZA Administration Bidg. MEZ I, Lopu-lapu City open soluments of JOI, and upon payment of a non-relationable fee of PSCO 00 to the PEZA Cestion. Prospective bulders shall submit the English Requirements to BAC at the stated address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibity Check at the same address.

The Entiring Decrements way be brossed only to biblions declared by the BAC to be eligible, upon payment of a tope refundable fee of PS,000.00 to the PEZA Cysther.

This pre-bit conference and the opening of talks will be conducted at the Conference Room, 26° PEZA

Administration Bidg., Microse Economic Zerm I. Lappu-laps City.

The PCZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Std. to around the bidding process and reject at bids of any time year to contract award outhout thoroby incurring only hability to the affected funders or Entitlers.

> Approved by (Sgd.) BELENA B. SUELLO ME 7 BAC Chargerson

Name of the Procuring Entity

Project Reference Number Cleverte WAHIO System Mame of Project: Claverta WAHIO. Location of Project: Claverta, Mts. Cr.

Standard Form Number Ravised on: 9 May 04 Standard Form Title . INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND YORK

Name of Project

The Local Government Link of Claverie Byough as Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), stylies consultants to apply for eligibility and chartleting and if found eligibic and chartletind, to bid for the hareunder project Claverin WAHIG System The propused Cleveria Waltig System will provide sufficient, safe Brief Description

The proposed Cleverin Webrg System for 12 priority barangers and possible level it Water Supply System to 12 priority barangers and bulk supply of webs at Berenger Postpostor. The project a major components include the development of Intelle structure, treatment facilities, a control room with related absolutes, installation of 44 45 for transmission tacilities, installation of 44 55 for transmission tacilities, installation of 44 55 for transmission tacilities. destrouted facilities, construction of 12 storage facilities, provision on metered connections, fire hydrants, velves litting and other

Approved Budget For the Contract. Source of Funding Contract Duration

Design and Construction Supervision of Claveria WAHIG System

20% DF/Gen, Fund Detailed Engineering Oweign = 60 days Construction Supervision = until the completion of project

The list of minimum requirements is inclusived in the Skiphets Form. Eligibility of prespective budders shall be checked using a non-decreationary "pessificifications, Shortisting of eligible consultants will be done on the following criteria: expensation of the consultant relative to proposed project, quartication of personnel and buttent worklood. Not more than live (5) eligible budders shall make up the afront-list. The tild evaluation procedural to be adopted shall be Dutelly Saxed Frakeriths with the following contractionalistic and list correspondents weight Quality Sasod Evaluation with the following constronation and its corresponding weight

Quality of personnel Experience and capability 45%
Plan of approach and Methodology - 25%

All particulars relative to Eligibity Statement and Scheming, bid Security performance Security Pro-Bidding conference(s), Evaluation of bids. Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the partinent provisions of RA 9484 and its (explanating Rules and Regulation (IRR)

	Schadula
Osadine for submission of tailer of intent and spokeation for Eligibitity	May 26, 2006
2 Securonce of elegables Forms	May 26 Juna 2
3 Goodine for the Submession of eligibity Requirements	June 2 June 5
4 Fegibidy Checking 5. Results of Etgibidty Check	June 13
6. Results of shortfalling	June 13
7 Material Control (Control Control	July 4 14
B hascance of Bid Decuments Deadline and Opening of Bids	July 17
The Exemples Removing Form will be available at BAC Sec	rotariot located at Mumch

The Editivity Screening Form will be available at BAC Secretaria, located at Mandpol Engineer's Office upon submission of a locat of internal upon payment of a non-relundable amount of Three Thousand Peace (P 3,000 00) for Engineer's to the Local Goypman unand Clarects Submission and results of explainty shall be in the same office. Bet Documents will be available only to chortisted beders upon payment of a non-relundable amount P 20 000 00 to the Local Government Unit of Claverta. The Local Government Unit of Claverta associated by the Local Government Unit of Claverta and the properties of the bid.

[PDS-Alex 12 & 19, 2006]



(Sgd.) JOHN REY A. TORINES BAC Charmon

Mayors' authority to allow lottery questioned

BACOLOD CITY-THE COUNTRY'S GOVER- daily double in the Visayas and Mindanao. nors want the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to suspend the implementation of Small Town Lottery (STL) after they found that mayors could bypass provincial governments in allowing STL operations.

As a delication of the second of the second

The League of Provinces of the Philippines questioned the PCSO's draft rules and regulations which provide that the provincial board's approval is no longer required if the league of municipal mayors allow STL in their towns.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon Government Code of 1991 outlining the powers, duties and functions of the provincial

He said the governors were referring to a rule adopted by the PCSO that provides that the endorsement of the League of Municipalities, even without a Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution, is sufficient to grant a franchise to STL operators.

Board powers

The Local Government Code requires the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to review ordinances and resolutions of municipal legislative boards. The league said this provision makes it necessary for STL operators to get the approval of provincial boards.

The league said many provinces are opposed to the operation of STL but the PCSO has began the pilot testing of STL in some provinces without securing the permission of governors or provincial boards

In Negros Occidental, the provincial board opposed STL but its league of mayors en-

Marañon said he believed that a dialogue

between the mayors and the board members is needed He said he hasn't decided yet whether to

accept or reject STL.

"Whenever I decide it will be for the greater good of the greater number," he said.

STL was set up by the PCSO as an alternative to the illegal numbers game, popularly

In Lucena City, the PCSO office asked all its sales agents and bet collectors to always wear identification cards to show policemen they were PCSO employees and not jueteng workers.

Leti Renomeron, PCSO-Quezon branch manager, made the appeal to agents and collectors after a Camp Crame-based anti-illegal gambling police unit raided a local STL station in Tiaong town on Tuesday and arrested 29 sales supervisors.

It was not an illegal gambling operation. said the league believes this violates the Local The police made the wrong raid and false arrests," she said.

According to Senior Insp. Nathaniel Villegas, head of the arresting team from the Antililegal Gambling Special Operation Task Force, most of the suspects did not have IDs issued by the PCSO.

"I must admit, most of the STL collectors are bull-headed. We've already asked them so many times to always wear their IDs but they keep on ignoring us," Renomeron said.

Impressions

Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr., Quezon police chief, said the place that was raided belonged to a compound owned by Tiaong Mayor Raul Umali. Umali has said it belonged to his mother who gets P300 in rent from STL.

Caragan said jueteng has stopped in the province and reports of jueteng making a comeback could be caused by the operations of STL.

Church leaders said STL is being used as a

"Naturally, the impression would be that those (arrested) persons were jueteng collectors... They simply forgot to pin their identification cards," he said

Quezon Board Member Isaias Ubana II assailed the police team that raided the STL station in Tiaong.

He saxi STL provides employment to peo-

"The poor fellows that they arrested were just trying to earn a living...," said Ubana. Cordo & Gomes, PDI Visayas Bureau and Delfin T Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

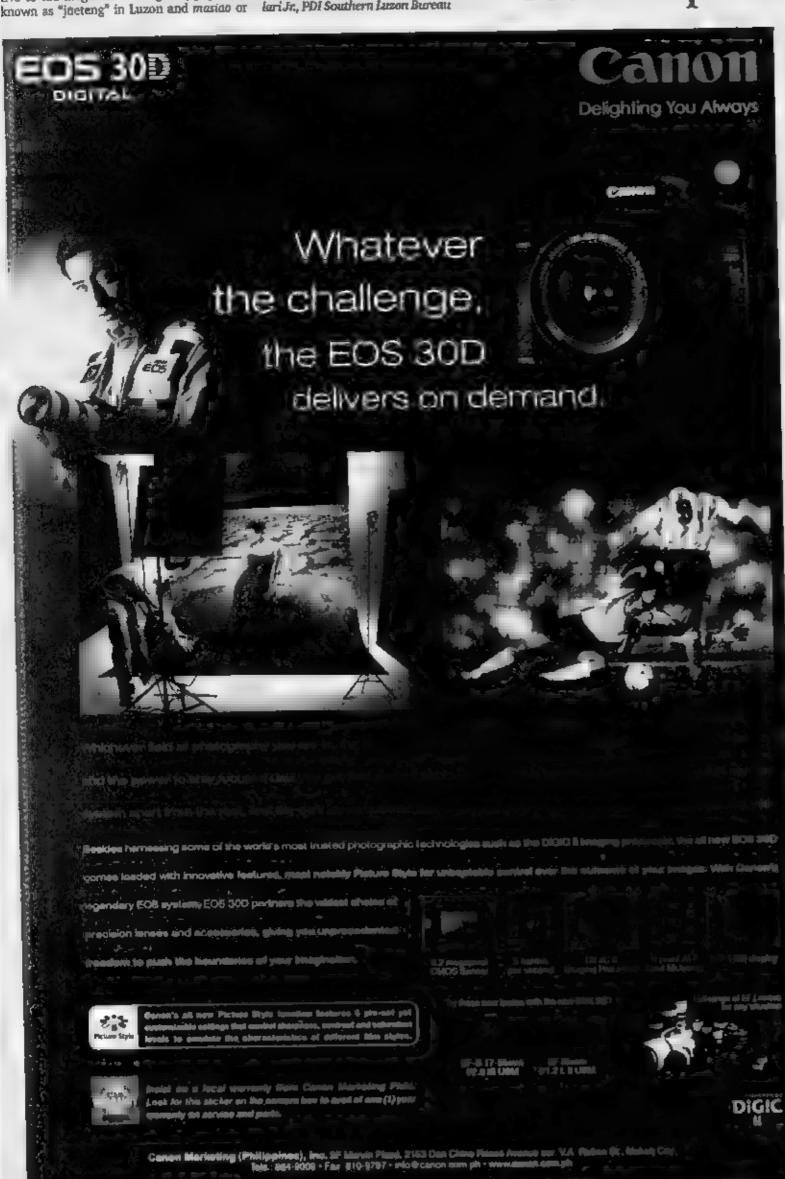


8

19

Solar photovoltaic systems stand proudly in a village in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi that was a recipient of solar energy systems from the Aliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore). Alternative energy systems are bringing electricity to more and more remote areas in the country.

2 welders suffer burns as explosion rocks ship awaiting load of diesel



Iwo workers were

hurt yesterday in an explosion that rocked an oil tanker while it was docked near an oil refinery in Limay, Bataan, Coast Guard officials said.

Jaime Rebuso, 43, and Pedneo Tanayday. 46, were treated for second degree burns at the Isaac and Caralina Medical Center here. Doctors said they were in stable condition.

Rebuso and Tanayday, both pape fitters, were doing welding

work on the tanker MT Daniella Trinidad docked near the Petron refinery port in Limay when the explosion occurred at about 8 a.m. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

The tanker was waiting for its out? to be loaded with diesel from the refinery, Coast Guard officials said.

It took Coast Guard personnel and fire fighters about an hour to of more than 2,000 tons. put out fire that followed the explosion.

Coast Guard personnel were sent to the area for search and rescue operations.

The Coast Guard quoted investigators as saying the explosion occured in tank No. 5 of the ship,

भी कि अवश्रीत वीक्षेप्र आहे. INOGRAPHICS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ.

> owned by Shogun Shipping Inc., (It where the workers were welding. The tank was empty, said the A Coast Guard.

12. Commander Joseph Coyme, Coast Guard spokesper- ? son, said there were no signs of a terror attack but an investigation was being conducted

The ship had a gross tonnage

"We heard the explosion and the nigbonts here immediately went there. We do not know the exact cause of the explosion," Enc Loesin, a terminal officer, was quoted by Reuters as saying. Greg Refraccion, PDI Centrel Luzon Desk and Leila Salaverria in Manila with Reuters

Bishop asks mayors not to approve STL

By Carla P. Gomez PD! Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY-BISHOP VIcente Navarra of the Diocese of Bacolod yesterday appealed to mayors of Negros Occidental nor to allow the operation of Small Town Lottery (STL) in their towns and cities.

I am appealing to the con- ment unit (LGU) science of our mayors because gambling will only aggravate

poverty," the bishop said. The bishop made this appeal after the league of municipal mayors in the province passed a resolution last week inviting the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PC-SO) to operate STL in the 19 towns

of Negros Occidental. gambling would only foment laziness and encourage people to depend on luck. Gambling, he added, will also affect families.

commended the Negros Occidental Provincial Board for opposing

The League of Municipalities

Occidental chapter, under Reso- w lution No. 1 it passed on May 5, said it endorsed STL "after (a) 1 thorough consideration of the benefits and advantages it could of bring to the general populace."

It added that STL would not only provide much-needed in- o come for residents but also revenue to the host local govern-

The operation of the STL en- b sures equitable income, the reso-Jution further said.

"The earlier STL is implement- > ed the better it will be for the " countless number of our people aq who are in due need of a legal w means to derive gainful income, the resolution said

A copy of the resolution, la Navarra, however, warned that signed by Manapla Mayor q Manuel Escalante III, the CMP on Negros Occidental president, and 🜙 La Castellana Mayor Enrico & Elumba, the secretary general, On the other hand, the prelate was submitted Priday to Gov. m Joseph Marahou.

Marañon has yet to make a stand of on STL, saying he would abide by 1 the position to be taken by the Y of the Philippines (CMP)-Negros League of Provinces on the matter.



Mayor also charged with publisher's slay

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO-STATE PROSEcutors found probable cause to charge Mayor Jaime Ylarde of Dingalan, Aurora with murder for the staying of a publisher last year.

The 11-page resolution by Prosecutors Cielitolindo Luyun, Misael Ladaga and Jose Pedro Navera was received by the family of Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin on the first anniversary of his death on Wednesday.

No bad was recommended for Ylarde, a former policeman.

In a phone interview, Navera said the prosecution panel amended the Jan. 26, 2006 information to include Ylarde in the charges.

Navera, citing a new order by Justine Secretary Raul Gonzalez, said a prosecutor in Aurora would assume the case and file the charges at the Regional Thal Court Branch 66, in Baler, Aurora. The arrest warrant would come from the local court.

Navera said affidavits by witnesses and the extrajudicial confession by suspect-turned-witness Reynaldo Morete showed probable cause to include Ylarde in the charges. Morete claimed that the mayor ordered the killing of Agustin.

Agustin, 54, was gunned down after he delivered in Dingalan copies of the special edition of his news weekly. The paper featured his column and several stories about the mayor's alleged misuse of public and private funds for relief and rehabilitation programs for landslide victims.

The resolution came two months after Gonzalez created a new panel to review the case

Relatives and supporters of Agustin contested an earlier recommendation by prosecutor Emmanuel Veiasco to exclude Ylarde from the murder charges.

Ylarde did not answer calls and text messages from the INQUIRER. Tonette Orejds, PDI Central Luzon Desk

MACHO

A carabao that was tagged "PinakaMacho" draws the attention of visitors at the booth of San Agustin town in llagan, Isabela during the celebration of the province's 150th founding anniversary.

Bugs keep Iloilo DA execs on alert

By Nestor P. Burgos jr. PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS said rice black bugs continued to infest plantations in lioilo.

Agriculture regional executive director Jindra Linda Demeterto sald the infestation had been "contained" but said it was not yet over.

She said farmers should remain vigilant. The bug (Scottnophara coarctata), also known as the Malaysian black bug, attacks rice stems and yam, it kills plants by infesting the base of stems and draining them of sap, causing the plants to weaken. The stalks eventually wither and die.

Since the infestation was detected in March, the bugs have infested 1,410 hectares of farms, according to the Department of Agriculture's Regional Crop Protection Center

The infestation has brought losses to 640 farmers in the northern Iloilo towns of Ajuy, Concepcion, San Dionisio, Sara and Dingle.

Ajuy was worst-hit with crops in at least 1,000 hectares of farms in eight barangays destroyed.

The DA was still determining the cost of damage to crops and the impact on rice production in the province, the country's second biggest rice producer. Boilo's total production last year was 690,269 metric tons.

The DA and the provincial government have formed a multi-agency task force to stop the infestation.

Avoid culture shock, OFWs told



Sometimes. seems to be a trivia. difference over food preferences and diet could spell trouble between an employer and an overseas Pilipino worker.

That's why Filipanos who are planning to work abroad should take the predeparture orientation seminar (PDOS) seriously to understand other cultures and to avoid "culture shock," according to officials of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration here. De.fina Camarillo, chief of the POEA

Cordillera, said one of the issues confronting the OFWs was food deprivation. This could be perceived as a violation of one's basic rights but is actually a problem of communication between the employer and the employee, she said. 'Sometimes, our OPWs are too shy to ask

their employers for a meal of their choice because they think their employers would get mad. There's a communication gap, but they should be open to their employers," she said.

This has become an issue because some foreign employers eat light meals compared to Filipinos who eat heavier meals, she said.

Camarillo said Filipinos, whose staple is rice, were finding it hard adjusting to a lighter diet served at their work sites.

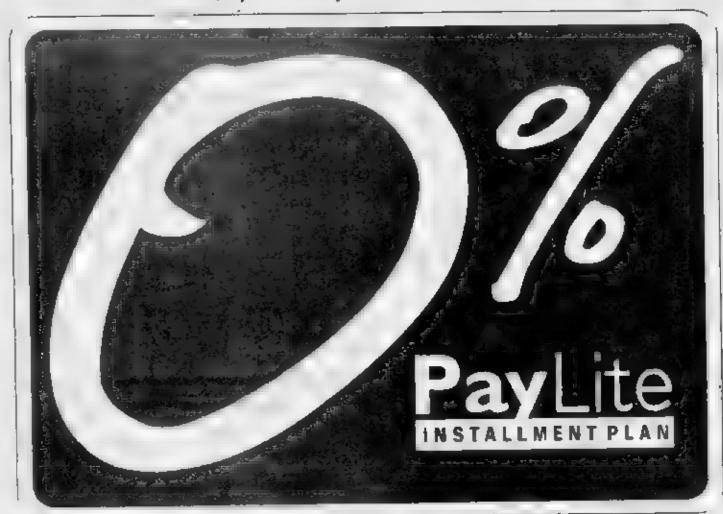
That is why those who are planning to work abroad should take the PDOS seriously to avoid encountering culture shock. There are OFWs who attend the PDOS just to comply with requirements. They should absorb what they are being taught in the seminar," she said in a forem here on Wednesday.

Aside from food preferences, the OFWs should also know the cultural norms of people in other countries to avoid conflicts, Camarillo said. In Saudi Arabia, for example, a Catholic is not allowed to carry a resery or

Bible in public. Camarillo said the PDOS was one of the measures that could shield a jobseeker from abuses. The seminar, she said, could also make the jobseeker aware of his or her rights Desirec Calusa, PDI in foreign countries. Northern Luzon Bureau



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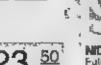
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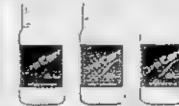


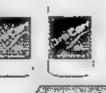














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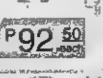


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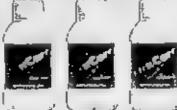
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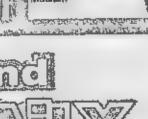


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Canndig Jr. survived an assassination attempt Wednesday, in an attack that took place exactly a year after his predecessor was murdered.

Catindig was on his way to a meeting of the local Rotary Club in San Lorenzo Village in his Isuzu Crosswind (XRA 119) when a man with a pistol shot at the window of his vehicle on a narrow road in Barangay Dita at about

The attack happened a year after then Mayor Leon Arcillas was gunned down by still unidentified assatlants on May 10, 2005.

Then Vice Mayor Catindig succeed-

Catindig was unhurt in the ambush, but one of his four close-in security aides was wounded.

"It was a good thing I was able to hang my bulletproof vest on the car window. The bullet meant for me pierced the vest," Catindig told the In-

Five other security aides of the mayor ran after the gimman, who

unidentified man.

They failed to catch up with the attackers who were seen headed for Cabuvao town.

Supt. Florendo Sahgao, city police chief, said the gunman apparently knew that Catindig was scheduled to attend a meeting in the area and had waited for his convoy.

A few hours earlier, thousands of residents, relatives and followers of Arcillas joined a motorcade and Mass to honor him. Ascillas was regarded as the father of the modern Sta. Rosa, a former farming town 50 km from Manila

Led by Vice Mayor Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno, the daughter of the murdered mayor, the group laid flowers and lit candles on the second floor of City Hall, where Arcillas was shot

Forty days after the killing, Councilor Artemio Gomez, a known righthand man of the late mayor, was shot and killed in front of his house.

Just two months ago, Jensen

STA. ROSA CITY-MAYOR JOSE B. fled on a motorcycle with another. Cristobal, the city information officer and a close nide of Catindig, was gunned down in Makati City.

Police, though, ruled out politics in the death of Cristobal.

Superintendent Saligao said Canndig and other members of his family were brought to an undisclosed place for protection.

Police also sent more bodyguards for the mayor.

The assassination attempt was the fourth attack against ranking Sta. Rosa City officials in just a year.

Before the death of Arcillas, community leader Mely Carvajal, who led a group that exposed the alleged irregularities of his administration, was fulled in front of her house.

Reports said Carvajal's death might be related to the fulling of Arcillas, which was blamed by police on the communist New People's Army

The NPA has demed having a hand in the murder. Marlon Ramos and Romula O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luson Buredu

Court decides to revive Golden Buddha case

By Delmar Carino PDI Northern Luson Bureau

BAGUIO CITY-THE GOLDEN BUDdha controversy is expected to start a new chapter after a judge here decided to revive the hearing of a civil case involving a bronze plated statuette claimed to be a replica of the genuine

The supposed connection of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' family to the Golden Buddha will take centerstage as Regional Trial Court Judge Fernando Vil Pamintuan issued an order on Tuesday directing former first lady lmelda Marcos and her daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, to appear be-

fore the court on June 29. Marcos was tagged as the mastermind behind the seizure of the Golden Buddha from its finder, Rogelio Roxas, a locksmith-turned-treasure hunter, on April 5, 1971, in his house here.

The Marcoses have repeatedly denied the charge.

Also to be issued subpoenas are Roxas sons, Henry and Gervic; brother Jose; Albert Umali, president of the Treasure Hunters Association of the Philippines (Thapi); and the Office of the Solicitor General

"The case has not been actually terminated. The hearing aims to make a final determination of the ownership cos and her daughter had not officialof the Golden Buddha," Pamintuan told the Inourest on Wednesday.

"The stametre deserves a final destination," he said, referring to the statuette that had been in the court's



THE BUDDHA statuette, around which revolve legends and myths on treasure hunting and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, sits in a Baguio courtroom.

DB/HARCARNOFDI NORTHEINILLIZON BUTEAU

custody for 35 years.

On May 9, Pamintuan ordered the transfer of the statuette from the court's evidence room to his court-

"I hope that after the hearing, the Buddha statuette will be finally given to its rightful owner," he said

The judge admitted that Mrs ly entered their appearance as parties interested in the case.

"But the former first lady came to the court before to see the Buddha and since her family is being dragged

in this issue, I thought it would be best for her to appear during the hearing," Pamintuan said.

Imee Marcos is being summoned as an heir of her father, he said.

Asked if he would make a ruling as to whether the Buddha was a replica of the original Golden Buddha allegedly seized by Marcos, Pamintuan sand: "No. As a judge I will not declare anything on that issue. We need evidence and law to do that."

The June 29 hearing will reopen the legal clashes between Umali and the OSG.

Umali said he should take home the statuette in the court's custody since Rogelio Roxas signed an agreement waiving his rights over the Golden Buddha in his favor.

The OSG wanted to keep the statuette since it could be part of the Marcoses' illegally acquired wealth.

Pamintuan will resume hearings on Civil Case No. 3383 filed by Jose Roxas on April 20, 1995, at the RTC Branch 3,

which Pamintuan now presides. Jose, 71, perimoned the court to release to him the statuette as a memento of his brother Rogelio's treasure hunting activities.

He testified before then Judge Romeo Brawner that his brother did not find a Golden Buddha.

Judge Antonio Reyes, who was assigned to handle the case when Branch 3 was vacated, decided on May 30, 1996 that no Golden Buddha existed and that the statuette in court was the one found by Rogelio.



RELATIVES and friends of landslide victims were the first visitors to the site after search and rescue tearns left the area upon realizing that they could no longer find survivors. Visitors, who are just curious or wanted to condole with villagers who survived the landslide, came in buses, according to the governor of Southern Leyte.

Guinsaugon becoming top S. Leyte tourist area

By Joey A. Gabieta and Janı Arnaiz PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE SITE WHERE once lay the village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte before it was wiped off the map by a massive andslide is becoming a tourist attrac-

Gov. Rosette Lerias said that since the Guinsaugon tragedy in Pebruary, hundreds of visitors had been going to the site to offer prayers and flowers for those who died in the landslide.

She said Guinsaugon had been visited not only by local tourists but also by foreigners. The last time she went to "Ground Zero," which was about two days ago, four busloads of tourists were in the area, she said.

With people coming from different places visiting Guinsaugon, Lerias said she would discuss with St. Bernard Mayor Marta Lim the con-

struction of markers where they could pay respects to the dead and honor the volunteers.

St. Bernard is now the most visited town in the province, Lim said. With tourists now frequenting the site, she might just ask the former residents of Guinsaugon, who are now housed at the Christo Rey Regional High School, to engage in livelihood projects like candle and T-shirt making.

On Feb. 17, the entire farming village, occupying 323 hectares, was buried in boulders and mud from Mt. Kan-abag.

The entire area has been declared a sacred sanctuary by the provincial government, with Army soldiers from the 43rd Infantry Battalion guarding the village.

Several countries have extended assistance to the provincial and municipal governments to search for survivors and to help them and the fami- stant noodles.

hes of those who died.

Three months after the tragedy, assistance continued to come for the victims of the landslide.

On Monday, Lerias was here to personally receive assistance from the Malaysian government, which was brought into the country by a Malaysian Royal plane.

She said she felt grateful that assistance was still pouring in. It makes me feel really good that these people are helping us cope," she said.

The Malaysian donation, weighing about 10 tons, consisted of a ton of chocolate drinks, a ton of condensed milk, one-half ton of infant milk powder, a ton of canned muttons, a ton of canned beef, a ton of assorted biscuits, 300 units of cooking pots, 300 units of cooking pans, 500 packets of female sanitary pads, 500 packets of bath soap at 3 bars per packet, and in-

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DOST Administrative Order No. 902

SUBJECT* Guidelines in the Recovery of Costs of Products and Services of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical And Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Particularly in the Flight Folder issuance and the Fise Structure Thereof

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines is a signatory to the Convention on International Civil Avistion, ICAO Document No. 7300, otherwise known as the Chicago Convention, to further enhance agreement on certain principles and arrangements in order that international civil aviation may be developed in a safe and orderly manner and that international pir transport services may be established on the basis of equality of apportunity and operated

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Member country of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and a Contracting State of the Convention on International Civit Aviation which designated the PAGASA as the Designated Meteorological Authority (DMA) of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines primarily laking charge to arrange for the provision of meteorological service for international siz navigation on its behalf;

WHEREAS, various principles and methodologies are teld out in the ICAO and WMO guidance materiels on cost recovery, namely: Manual on Air Navigation Service Economics (ICAO Doc. 9181), ICAO's Policies or Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services (ICAO Doc. 9082) and WMO Guide on Aeroneutical Metaorological Services Cost Recovery (WMO No. 904).

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 159, it is the goet of the government: (1) to promote full recovery of cost of services to free other government revenues for priority projects, and (2) to ensure equitable distribution of the burden of cost recovery by having the direct recipients of government services account for the costs. WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 54. Chapter 12. Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of

1987), heads of bureaux, offices or agencies, may, upon approved of the department head, charge and collect the cost of the services rendered by the bureau, office or agency concerned:

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of the issuances, the tollowing rules and regulations for the implementation of collection of fees and charges for PAGASA products and services are hereby promulgated.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Title. These guidelines shall be known and clied as the PAGASA Flight Folder Issuance Fee Structure.

Section 2: Definition of terms and acronyme. - Unless defined otherwise, the following terms and acronyms shall refer to the definitions provided hereunder:

- "PAGASA" refers to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, A service institute of the Department of Science and Technology mandated to undertake, infar alla, observation, collection, assessment and processing of atmospheric and atted data for the benefit of agriculture, vieubri bns scremmoo
- "AMSO" refers to the Aeronautical Meteorological Service Office (or AeroNateorological Service Office).
 An organic unit of the Weather Forecasting Section-Weather Branch mandated by law to issue Fight Documentation Folders to seronautical users
- "WMO" refers to the World Meteorological Organization. A specialized agency of the United National purposely established to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water resources management, spriculture and other human activities, among others.
- "ICAO" refers to the Internetional Civil Aviation Organization, A specialized agency of the United National established to standardize, and establish internetional Standards, Recommended Practices and Procedures covering the technical field of aviation; ticansing of personnel, rules of the uir, seronautical meteorology. and aeronautical charts, among others.
- "DMA" refers to the Designated Meteorological Authority. The authority providing or erranging for the provision of meteorological service for international sir nevigation on behalf of a Member country. DMA is functionally referred to as "Service Provider" "FOLDER" refers to the Flight Documentation Folder, it consists of written or printed documents, including
- charts or forms containing moteorological information for a flight "USER" refers to an entity or individual that utilizes a service furnished by the "Service Provider"
- "FEES" refers to all charges and costs streetsed against the direct recipients of specialized products and services provided by PAGASA in the exercise of its functions.
- "AertS" refers to Aeroldeteorological information System which is a sub-system of the WAFS-Meteorological
- "PAGASA Aeri8" refers to PAGASA's seronsulical meteorological information system developed fixough
- "SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR" refers to one who, as a primary job function, manages computer and network systems on behalf of exother, such as an employer or client.
- "FL" refers to flight level.
- "hPe" refers to hacto-Pescal. A unit of measurement of atmospheric pressure
- "ETOPS" refers to Extended Range Operation with two engine simpleness
- "AERODROME" refers to a defined ones as fund, ice, or water (including any buildings, installations or equipment) intended to be used either wholly or partially for the efficiel, departure; movement, or servicing of efficielt.
- "ALTERNATE AEROCIROME" An aerodrome specified in the liight pien to which a liight may proceed when it becomes traditisable to land at the enrodrome of intended landing.
- EN-ROUTE ALTERNATE AERODROMET refers to an aerodrome of which an aircraft would be able to land after experiencing an abnormal or emergency condition while on route
- "AERODROME OF DESTRIATION" refers to an aerodrome at which an altereft in designated to land. "SARPs" refers to standards and recommended practices employed by both the ICAO and VMIO
- PROGNOSTIC UPPER-AIR CHARTS" refers to prognosticated ICAO standard (sobaric upper-level charts composed mainly of forecast air-temperature, wind direction and speed usually with validity period
- of six (6) to thirty six (36) hours. "SIGNSFICANT WEATHER CHARTS" refers to prognosticated weather charts for a designated level usually at FL250-630. It may contain forecasts of cloud eress with indication of its tops, jet alreads at different levels, volcance activity/ash astert, and location, frontal systems and its direction and speed and other meteorological information which may affect the safety of aircraft operations.
- "WAPS" refers to the World Area Forecast System developed by ICAO and WWO to improve the quality and consistency of en-route guidence provided for international aircraft operations.
- TAFORT raines to the complete description of the meteorological elements expected at and over the serodome throughout the whole of the forecast period, it could be in a 9 or 24-hour validity period, including any changes considered to the significant to secret operators. It is prepared by trained staff (seminantical meteorological forecaster), who, using the latest available regulations, ensure that internationally agreed practices are followed. This is one of the basic aeronautical meteorological information needed in light planning for safety of the conduct of international or national air navigation.
- "METAR" refers to the name code for an eviation routine weather report. In the Philippines, it is assued at hourly intervals. This type of report is one of the basic considerations in the formulation of a TAFOR.
- "SPECI" refers to the neme of the code for an existion special weather report. A SPECI can be issued at any time when certain cottens are tract, (see Appendix A)*. This type of report is also one of the basic considerations in the formulation of a TAFOR*
- "Service Provider" refers to PAGASA, as an entity that provides meteorological information to various users or customers."
- "bistacrological information" refers to meteomiogical report, analysis, forecast, and any other statement raising to existing or expected meteorological conditions Section 3. Electronic Flight Folder Acquisition. Automated Flight Folder issuances shall be in place and shall be maintained by the PAGASA AeriS Systems Administrator utilizing its FTP service. Authorized Users shall be given

a username and password to gain access to the necessary Folder Section 4. Folder Preparation and Formulation. The Folder shall be prepared and formulated in advance by the

AMSO throughout the 24-hour period Section 5. Folder Availability. The designated Forecaster shall gost the latest Folder at the designated PAGASA website two (2) to three (3) hours prior to the intencied time of departure

Section 6. Flight Schedule; curtants. The User shall be responsible for the submission of the frequency of Folder issuance (delly, weekly or monthly) within a period of seven (7) working days prior to the effectivity of the schedule. The flight schedule shall contain the (e) time of departure; (b) serodrome of departure. (c) alternate serodrome (including take-off alternate, an-route atternate, ETOPS en-route atternate); and (d) serodrome of

Section 7 Unacheduled, Re-echeduled and Cancelled Flights, Requests for flight, Folder outside the submitted achedule or for re-scheduled flights must be made at least twelve (12) hours before the intended time of departure. Section 8. Folder Structure. The general structure of a light documentation folder must be made in accordance with the standard formal prescribed in the WMO and ICAO Standards and Recommended Precioes. It is categorized Into International Flight Folder, and Domestic Flight Folder

international Flight Folder shall be composed of the following items:

Multi-level prognostic upper-eit charts, i.e. FL300 and FL390, with velidity period of twenty four (24) hours

Significant Weather Chert, i.e. PL259 - 636, with a validity period of twelve (12) hours.

Complete list of Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAFOR) of each of serodrome of departure, destination, atternate, on-route alternate, take-off atternative, ETDPS en-route alternate and destination elemete.

Domestic Flight Folder shall be composed of the following Hams

Multi-level prognostic upper-air charts or a choice of two of the following: Surface (10 motor level) 1000 hPs level; 850 hPs level

Significant Weather Charts valid up to twelve (12) hours of the following levels:

i. Medium level 700 hPs to 400 hPs or FL100 to FL250;
ii. Low-level - Surface to 700 hPs or SFC-FL100;

Compliant list of Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAFOR) of each of serodrome of departure. espon, alternate, en-mute ellernate, teke off alternal

Section 1. Schedule of Fees. The fees prescribed in this Section are applicable to the products end/or services

and materials furnished by the AMSO.						
	Schedule of Fees					
Reference Code	Product/Service Type	Cost				
IFF	Flight Documentation Folder for International Flights	มธ\$ 15.00				
OFF	Domestic Folder for Domestic Flights (Commercial)	P100.00				
UPP	positions of the same of the same The	statement of Appoint shall				

Section 2 Sitting. The Accounting Section shall bill the User on a monthly basis. The statement of Account shall be issued by the PAGASA AcriS system administrator containing, among others, the description of products and services, corresponding cost computed based on the graveling such anger rate at the time of rendition of service. Section 3. Delinquent payment; surcharge Payments made after lifeen (15) days from bill date shall be assed a surcharge of one percent (1%) of the total amount due.

Section 4 Folder access suspension. Users are entitled to thirty (30) days grace period within which to settle their eccounts. Beyond which their access to the flight lolder shall be suspended. The suspension will be littled three (3) days after the User has sets/factory settled in full his accountabilities which includes his unperiod eccount plus. the corresponding surcharge.

Section 5. Face Collected. The face collected by PAGASA from the Users pursuant to this Department Order shell be deposited to the National Tressury

PARTE MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Periodic Raview of Fees. The PAGASA Flight Folder fee structure shall be reviewed whenever necessary provided that the rates of less herein provided may be increased only once a year unless otherwise required by law, associative orders, rules and regulations, and other issuance

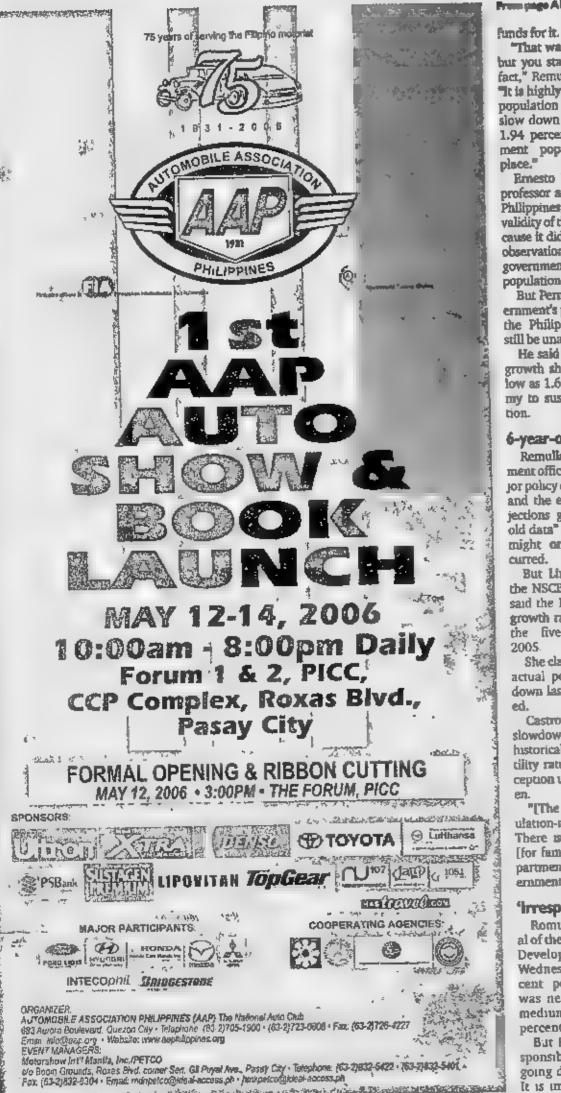
Section 2. Revision of Fees. Notice of revision of less shall be given to users or their duly authorized represensatives at least four (4) months prior to the intended revision. During the said period, users may submit.

Section 3. User Consultation, Consultation with the Users shall be done as frequent as recessary to gauge the effectiveness of the service and/or product. Section 4. Separability Clause: If any provision of this Department Order is declared unconstitutional, linguist invalid, the other parts not affected shell continue to be to full force and effect. Section 5. Effectively. This Department Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper

(Sgd) ESTRELLA F. ALABASTRO Secretary

(FER May 12 & 19, 2000)

Doubts raised over population drop report



That was your interpretation, but you stated it as a matter of fact," Remuila told the inquinea. It is highly unbelievable that the population growth rate would slow down from 2,36 percent to

1.94 percent without a government population program in place."

Ernesto Pernie, an economica professor at the University of the Philippines, said he doubted the validity of the NSCB projection be-cause it did not jibe with physical observations. He described the government's efforts to control population as "practically mil."

But Pernia said that if the government's projection was correct, the Philippine economy would still be unable to sustain it.

He said the annual population growth should slow down to as low as 1.6 percent for the economy to sustain its entire popula-

6-year-old data

Remulia cautioned government officials against making major policy decisions on population and the economy based on projections garnered from "6-year-old data" and "assumptions" that might or might not have occurred.

But Lina Castro, director for the NSCB social statistics office, said the 1 95-percent population growth rate was a projection for the five-year period starting

She clarified that it was not the actual population growth slowdown last year, as earlier report-

Castro also said the projected slowdown was based on actual historical trends on declining fertility rate and increasing contraception use among Filipino wom-

"[The government has] a population-management program. There is an intensive campaign [for family planning] by the Department of Health and local governments," she said.

'Irresponsible'

Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said Wednesday that the 1.95 percent population growth rate

But Remulia said "It is irregoing down as a matter of fact. he said. It is important that we have a

GMA lauds Popcom for drop in growth rate

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO wants the population growth rate pegged at its current level of 1.95 percent, Health Secretary Prancisco Duque said yesterday.

He said Ms Arroyo stated this posttion during a Cabinet meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the National Economic and Development Authority held at Villamor Air Base in Passy City.

President Arroyo said the money to be used in bringing down further the population growth rate could be used instead to feed the hungry, generate employment and spur economic activities," Duque told reporters after the meeting.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said

Ms Arroyo congratulated officials of the Population Commission for "the significant drop in the population growth rate."

Duque said that by keeping the population growth rate at this level, Ms Arroyo wanted to "aggressively implement the scientific natural famlly planning methods.*

He named five methods that inchided the Billings ovulation method, which, he said, was supported by the Catholic Church.

Duque also said the slowdown in the population growth rate was a resuit of the "economic starus" of the

There is a correlation between a person's economic status and the fertility rate. The poorer you are, the higher the fertility rate," he said.



REMULLA: 6-year-old data

census first."

He said that with no factual data at hand, it was best to push the passage of HB 3773, which would provide "free and full access to adequate and relevant information on reproductive health and a full range of family methods and

Remulia also said that while the measure drew the support of more than 120 lawmakers as of early this year, Speaker Jose de Venecia and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles had yet to schedule it for debate.

2 stumbling blocks

"It enjoys broad-based support was nearing the government's but we have two stumbling medium-term target of 1 94 blocks-the Speaker and the masonry leader. There have been sponsorship speeches but we still sponsible for anybody to say it is have yet to have our full debates,"

Remulla added that this might

be due to "very strong pressure" from the Catholic bishops and lay Catholic groups.

Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, another proponent of the bill, said he was "somewhat pessimistic" about its chances, especially with the House leadership focused on Charter change

Biazon said the reported slowdown in population growth should not affect the bul's passage because it was not only about population management but was also "a health measure aimed at giving our constituents access to much needed information on reproductive health."

Fertility rate

Quoting results of the NGCB's regular National Demographics and Health Survey, Castro said the fertility rate among women slowed down from an average of six childbirths a year in 1973 to 3.5 chuldburths in

She said the average of 5.1 childbirths a year in 1978 dropped to 4.4 in 1986, to 4.1 percent in 1993, to 3.7 in 1998, and to 3.5 in

Castro also said the deciming fertility rate among women was backed by the fact that the prevalence rate of the use of contraceptives among them had been on an upward

She said that according to the same survey, contraception prevalence rate rose from 17 4 percent of married women aged 15 to 49 in 1973 to 48.9 percent in 2003.

"[The survey] shows that contraception prevalence rate was already almost 49 percent," Castro said, adding that the government's advocacy programs for family planning should be partly credited for

Last in priorities

Elmer Labog, chair of the militant labor alhance Kilusang Mayo Uno, said that despite the slowdown in population growth, workers were not being educated on proper and effective family planning methods.

"The general welfare of workers and their families comes last in the priorities of the government and employers. If the government provides sufficient education campaign on population control and, at the same time, provides sufficient employment and sources of living to its people, having a big population will not be a problem," he said.

Labog said it was unfair to always link the poverty problem to population growth.

He said that if the government managed socioeconomic structures well, there would be no poor Filipinos even if the population

To the Neda statement that the government's poverty-reduction goal could be within reach with the slowdown in population growth, Labog said: "Our rich natural resources are more than enough to feed our people, but the Church and the government are both overlooking the fact that there is a blg disparity in the distribution of the country's social wealth."

He issued a reminder to Neri that more than half of the national budget was allocated to the payment of onerous foreign debts and military spending rather than on the social services desperately needed by the poor.

Family planning education

But Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said that while the DOH did not have a substantial budget for family planning programs, it had been active in educating couples on natural methods of contraception.

Duque said local government units even had more programs on family planning, especially since the function of providing public health services had been devolved to LGUs

Although the national government promores natural methods, LGUs have their own family planning programs, he said.

Duque also attributed the projected decline in population growth to the improving economy and the growth in the number of educated

"If the economy is improving and if more people are getting educated, the result is that the fertility rate of women is deckning. There is a strong relationship between education and fertility rate," he said. With a report from Jerome Aning and Mary Ann I. Ranola

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Gov't agency printing Cha-cha primers

From page Al

stirred up by the administration's dual moves to amend the 1987 Constitution and adopt the parliamentary system.

The two separate modes involve a signature campaign under a "people's initiative" and the convening of the Senate and the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly.

Legal to spend public funds

PIA Director General Conrado Limcaco dismissed suggestions of wrongdoing.

"The President ran and won on a platform of Charter change," he said. "So it's legal to spend public funds to promote her espoused platform.

The NPO printed the primers at its office on Edsa corner NIA Northside Road in Quezon City from mid-March to early May this year, churning out hundreds of thousands of copies, the insider sand

"The order came from Malacaffang. We know the people who brought the materials to us are from Malacañang. They are familiar to us; they have come to our office a number of times," the insider said.

The primer, printed in English and Filipino, harped on the need for Charter change and the advantages of a federal system and parliamentary form of government, and squelched claims this was designed to keep President Macapagal-Arroyo in power.

Allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 presidential election have sparked demands that she resign although she has demed any wrongdoing.

The 12-page material explained that the President was leaving the matter on Charter change to Congress, even as it pointed to her preference for a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Technical malversation

Lawyer Melamo "Batas" Mauricio said publication of the primers could amount to technical malversation if it was established that PIA funds, allocated by Congress, were used in the project.

"If their fund is allocated for other purpose, that's technical malversation," Mauricio said in Charter. an interview.

"This can also be a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act because you're giving undue advantage to a sector of government pushing for Charter change," he said.

Felipe Evardone, NPO OIC-director, told the inquirer his agency printed only 100,000 copies --50,000 in English and another 50,000 in Filipino. He said the cost was minimal because he it to Saudi Arabia, which she used old stocks of paper. "We did joined, Santiago said Ms Arroyo

funds to bankroll an intensive

paign among the youth on the hu-

man immunodeficiency virus that

could lead to the incurable Ac-

quired Immune Deficiency Syn-

The young people surveyed

were part of the "lost generation"

that was left out of the intensive

education campaign conducted

from 1993 to 2003 and funded by

the United States Agency for In-

ternational Development, ac-

cording to Dr. Eric Tayag, director

of the National Epidemiology

"They believe that they have an

inherent protection against

HIV/AIDS It is a myth and it is

disturbing," Tayag said on the sidennes of the CEO forum on

HIV/AIDS in the workplace held

yesterday at the New World Re-

these young people were "sexual-

ly active," thus putting them at

He said it was difficult to bring

to them the right information on

HIV/AIDS because they were

"distracted" by such issues as mu-

Tayag said the DOH was con-

sidering taking the issue directly

to the schools. But he said this

would be a challenge because no

funds were available to mount an

risk of contracting the virus.

sic, fash on and fads.

Center of the DOH.

naissance Hotel.

drome.

awareness and education cam-

out of 5 youths

not spend a single centavo."

The director is the brother of Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of the Union of the Local Authorities of the Philippines, which was at the forefront of gathering signatures in support of people's initiative.

This could be one of the items being distributed in the forums of the Sigaw ng Bayan and the Advocacy Commission. I heard they have been distributing primer on this and that," Rene Azurin said in an interview.

Azunn, a member of the defunct Consultative Commission and one of six who dissented with its recommendation to scrap the 2007 elections preparatory to a shift to parliamentary government, speaks at forums to expose the agenda behind Charter

Cash cows

Also on Thursday, the lefust Bagong Alyansang Makabayan recent Malacañang's takeover of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) could be part of Ms Arroyo's Charter change drive.

Renato Reyes, Bayan secretary general, said the move on Pagcor and PCSO was aimed at "tightening government's grip on vital milking cows that can be used to fuel Arroyo's lagging Cha-cha train."

Sigaw ng Bayan, a civic group led by former Concom member Raul Lambino, yesterday called on the Senate to heed the people's "clamor" for Charter change.

The group is spearheading the moves to gather signatures in support of a petition for amendment through a people's initiarive. This involves a single question on whether Filipinos approve of the abolition of the Senate in favor of a unicameral legislature and unspecified transitory provisions that will pave the way for the adoption of the parhamentary system.

The effort is facing stiff opposition from a multi-sectoral group which argued that there was no enabling law to cover amendments in a people's initiative and that such an exercise was designed to amend, not revise, the

Court will settle issues

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who opposed a similar people's instative in 1997 on grounds there was no law calling for it, yesterday said she favored both the signature gathering campaign and the convening of a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

At the sidelines of the state vis-

8,226) came from the "general

chents of female sex workers

while 1,171 were men who had

sex with men. The rest were fe-

male sex workers and people us-

The data also showed that 86

percent of the people living with

HIV/AIDS contracted the virus

through sexual contact-hetero-

sexual, 62 percent; homosexual,

18 percent; and bisexual, 5 per-

needles used in injecting drugs or

blood transfusions. A number "in-

herited" the virus from mothers

Tayag said that while the preva-

lence of HIV/AIDS in the Philip-

pines was still minimal compared

to other countries, the DOH was

of preventing its further spread

and reducing its impact on individ-

Edgar Chun, country chair of the

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

and head of the business and

health cluster of the Philippine

Business for Social Progress, called

sense to put up such a program as

it would ensure continued pro-

ductivity in the workplace and, at

investment in communities pa-

the same time, constitute a social .

programs in the workplace.

uals, families and communities.

A call to business

with HIV-AIDS.

Prevention

Tayag said a good number of being proactive and had set a goal

The rest were infected through

ing drugs intravenously.

Another 1,136 were male

population."

Ermita courts generals for Cha-cha

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG-BACKED Charter change group has started courting military and police generals.

With no less than Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita around, the Advocacy Commission for Charter Change made a putch before members of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Raul Lambino, the group's convenor, even went to the extent of claiming that a change in the system of government would solve much of the military's woes, including the communist insurgency.

"You have been a major political arbiter of this country so we are asking your help in disseminating this information," said another commissioner, Romela Bengzon.

Violation?

Among the active generals who participated in the lecture were Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero and Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr.

The military leadership had

of the two modes would eventu- tors will participate in the conally be left to the Supreme Court stituent assembly," Santiago said.

be legal for Congress to vote together instead of separately, then

calls for the resignation of Presi- ment. dent Macapagal-Arroyo , last year over allegations she rigged the 2004 election.

Ermita, a retired general and a convenor of the Advocacy Commission, was unconcerned that bringing the Charter change campaign to the military violated its "apolitical"

"The presence of the advocacy commissioners here does not mean that the military is being politicized. It's just an information campaign. It would not do any harm if they ask the support (of the military) so Charter change will succeed," Ermita told reporters.

Lambino said his group had been asking the AFP and the PNP to openly declare support for the Charter change drive, since Malacañang had already done so.

Nothing illegal

There's nothing Illegal if they're going to openly express support," he said.

He told the generals that the communist insurgency would weaken under a federal-parliamentary system since services would be delivered faster to the insisted on insulating the troops poor, thus discouraging them

agreed with her that the legality some of us administration sena-

Administration lawmakers be-"If the court rules that it would - lieve that if the two chambers voted as one the Senate opposition to a constituent assembly would

from politics at the height of from joining the rebel move-

"The communists benefit under the present system, which is too slow," Lambino laterisaid in an interview. He said soldiers' perennial complaints about low pay would be solved by changing the system of government.

He said under a parliamentary system, the savings from lesser bureaucratic red tape could be channeled to basic services and better pay for government workers.

They (soldiers) should support Charter change because they are suffering so much. They're not receiving good benefits. Imagine, their laundry allowance is only P13," said Lam-

Military as political arbiter

Bengzon said the campaign needed the military's support to succeed.

The reality is they have become the political arbiter in this country," she said.

"In the recent past, we saw that the military is very significant in providing change or political stability. The reality is pobucal stability in the Philippines to some extent (is based) on which position the military

be overcome.

Also yesterday, House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano urged former President Fidel Ramos to stop "deluding" himself that Charter change would be a "panacea to the na-

would take. So, therefore, we are asking them at the same time, informing them that Charter change should be one of those that the military (should) support," Bengzon said.

CHANGE

Lambino said their group would try to tour military camps to sell Charter change to the sol-

Ermita supported the idea. "I wish it will be done ... because our soldiers and their families should understand what this Charter change is," he said.

No official position

Agfo president Jose Bello, who was a member of the Malacaffang-created Consultative Commission that recommended the shift to the federal-parliamentary system, said his group has not taken an official posi-

"But the way I look at it, it looks like they (generals) are in favor of the Charter change. Most likely we are going to support it," he said.

non's ills. It will only perpetuate President Arroyo and her allies in power," he said. With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

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sented during the forum put the number of adults (aged 15-49) living with HIV/AIDS at 11,168.

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WHAT'S INSIDE **■ Cops seize** undervalued computer shipment in Manila

Yamashita gold on QC

ectroci

2 suspected car

thieves arrested

in Quezon City

campus?

/A26

/A26

Caloocan factory closed anew for waste water dumping

Snack firm has no permit to operate, says LLDA

By Blanche S. Rivera

NLY TWO WEEKS AFTER it was allowed to operate despite violating the government's effluent standards, the factory producing the popular corn snack Boy Bawang was again ordered closed yesterday.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority reimposed the cease-and-desist order (CDO) issued against the KSK Food Products factory in Bignay, Caloocan City, after an inspection team found that it had failed to comply with the conditions of the temporary lifting order (TLO) given to the company.

KSK Food Products is operating without an LLDA clearance and water discharge permit, but has pending applications for the permits, the agency said.

"Remedial measures that they deciared in their urgent motion for the issuance of a temporary lifting order are not being strictly implemented," the inspection team said in its re-

port yesterday. The team, which went to the site on Wednesday, recommended that the LLDA notify the company to strictly implement the remedial measures in its TLO, and repair the facilities required for treating waste water dis-

LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III, however, rejected the recommendations. He said KSK Food Products was not operating its solidliquid separator, and was not likely to have a waste water treatment facility by July 27

"Why remind the factory officials again? It took us one year to close it. KSK will not operate again until it completes the waste water treatment facility," Ynares said in an interview yesterday

No order

KSK spokesperson Narciso Mallari Jr., however, said the company has not yet received the order on the reimposition of the CDO, so it was still operating.

Mailari, chief of the KSK human resources division, insisted that the company was complying with the TLO conditions and was not informed of the LLDA's recent decision.

"We are on track. We have 90 days to comply with the conditions. Everything is being done," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

According to Jonathan Biscocho, head of KSK's manufacturing department, the new order was "unfortunate" because as far as they were concerned, they had stided by the LLDA recommendation and had installed remedial

"One of the pumps was busted and water was not flowing at the time the LLDA people visited the plant," Biscocho said. He explained that the repair work was over and that the pump is now working.

Biscocho added that the food company management would not make any commitment to the LLDA that it could not follow.

Al Santamaria, head of the city's Environment and Sanitation department, on the other hand, said they had not received any complaint against the food company.

"We do not know of any complaint but we will investigate the matter," he added

High level

Sampling done by an LLDA team on March 6 showed that the level of the bio-oxygen demand in the effluents released by the factory was 1180 mg/l, way higher than the acceptable 50 mg/l, while its chemical oxygen demand level was 3062 mg/i or 300 times more than the standard of 100 mg/i.

The effluents also registered total suspended solids of 544 mg/l, almost 10 times the standard 70. It, however, met the normal pH count with its pH 8.4 and oil and grease of negative 1.

KSK Pood Products has been fined around P333,000 for violating the effluent standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It has paid only P83,250 in

Ynares said the LLDA decided it would get serious in penalizing firms with pollution problems within its jurisdiction after experts reported that the Laguna de Bay, the biggest inland body of water in the country, was polluted and "extremely stressed."

The LLDA has issued CDOs against eight firms, including a paper mill, a municipal slaughterhouse and restaurants, this year, but only four got suspension of operations orders. The rest have pending appeals. With Nancy C. Carvajal

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Policemen seize undervalued computer shipment in Manila

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE SEIZED YESTERDAY A 40foot-van containing computer monitors with an estimated value of P2.6 mil-.hon.

The police stopped the van as it left the Bureau of Customs area in Manila. They suspected the cargo was misdeclared and the importer paid way below actual duties

. Police seized the truck Tuesday evening as it left Gare 6 in Port Area. When opened by investigators and customs officers inside Camp Crame, the van was found to contain hundreds of computer monitors worth about P3,000

Reconditioned or brand new?

Customs officials have yet to determine if the monitors were brand new or reconditioned, but the police said they ,"looked new."

The importers said they were used computer parts, but the monitors turned out to be brand new, said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, head of the ditioned, and not brand new.

anti-smuggling task force of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The importer Saturn Information Technology, paid only P32,000 for the cargo based on customs documents, the police said.

Red flag

"It's what we call 'red flag' If only P32,000 as paid for a 40-foot container van, you see a red flag there. It really depends on the cargo, but the average payment for each van is around P100,000," De los Santos said.

Customs examiner Dionisito Vailes explained that these kinds of cargo were free of tariff and that the unporter paid only for the value added tax.

if it was established that the importer misdeclared the value of goods the, the company would have to pay more,

A representative of Saturn Information Technology explained that the computer monitors, imported from Malaysia, were refurbished and recon-



CIDG personnel inspect computer monitors at Camp Crame.

DOCHOE HADS

Cops report threat on Makati mayor's life

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNMENT DISclosed yesterday what it called a "continuing and serious threat" on the life of Mayor Jejo-

Sr. Supt. Marietto Valerio, Makati police chief, in a report to Binay, said "unknown forces" were planning to hurt or, worse, assassinate the opposition leader.

"The mayor faces a continuing and serious threat from still unknown but powerful blocs - that may strike unexpectedly," said Valerio in the report declassified yesterday by City Hall.



dent of the United Opposition (UNO), an ily and political allies were real, Valerio said organization at the forefront of the campaign for President Macapagal Arroyo's

After making some changes in his security arrangements, his staff said the mayor continued with his daily routine.

"My work as mayor and as president of the [UNO] will not be affected by threats from individuals who have no respect for the role of the opposition in a democracy," Binay said.

The Makati Police Station made the threat assessment on Binay's request. He wanted to

But the threats did not faze Binay, presi- know if reported threats against him, his fam-

Binay received similar threats in May 2002 through text messages, unsigned letters and calls to his office.

The police also learned of a "politically motivated assassination plot.

In its latest report, the police said some men had been monitoring the mayor's moves, as well as those of family members, friends and known supporters.

Valerio cited the recent assassination of Binay's political ally, Edilmar Pancipane, as an indication that the threat was real.

Is the Yamashita gold under a QC business school?

By Di Yap and Kenneth del Rosario

-ARE TREASURE HUNTERS SEEKING The fabled Yamashita gold digging under the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) in Quezon City to unearth the treasure?

excavations may cause the foundations of the school on Aurora Boulevard to

So far, the city has found no proof of the claim, and no complaint has been received by the Office of the Building

Official (OBO), the concerned agency. But city officials said they would conninue their probe, since the safety of the

school was at stake. A PSBA official, who refused to give his name but identified himself as cluef of security and maintenance, vehe-The city's building officials are look-mently denied that diggings were being ing into reports that treasure-hunting done on campus. In fact, inspections have been done by the city's building officials and security people from the mayor's office, but nothing was found," he told the INQUIRER.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources sent its own inspec-

but it is not known when the team would release its report. Antonio Avila, chief of the enforcement and inspection division of the OBO, confirmed that previous inspections of the site yielded

negative results. PSBA representatives conferred with building officials on Wednesday, and promised to submit the school's position paper by Monday, Avila said. He expected the document to resterate the school's demal.

One of the members of the May 5 inspection team, architect Edgardo del

tion team yesterday to inspect the site, Rosario, said he searched inside and outside the building for signs of diggings, but found nothing out of the ordinary. But he admitted that the inspecrious were "not thorough," since he was escorted by school security people the whole time.

Avila said the investigation into the alleged excavation work began when seven persons claimed in radio interviews that they had been digging at the

PSBA for the past several years Del Rosario said tales of treasurehunting at the PSBA had been making the rounds since the late 1990s.

METROBRIEFS

Wrong outlet

THE PASIG CITY government is sat to file charges against a company engaged in siphoning sludge from septic tanks in Metro Mantia for allegedly

dumping human waste into a drainage system. Raquel Naciongayo, head of the City Environment and Natura: Resources Office, said workers of the E. Malabanan Beien company allegedly dumped the



waste early Tuesday morning Into a drainage system on Avis corner Santiago Streets in Barangay Bagong Ilog Barangay watchman Bienvenido Landicho, who was on patros duty at that time, said he had witnessed the incident and promptly took down the plate number of the company's dump. The truck driver, Fernando Marciano, however, told police he had no hand in the dumping of the waste. Naciongayo said the city's Business Permit and Licensing Office had suspended all permits given to the company after it was reportedly caught dumping human waste in a drainage system in E. Rodriguez, Quezon City on June 14, 2004. The Induires tried to get in touch with Luzviminda Beten, the company's operating manager, but a staffer said she was not around. A company employee, Sandra Retirado, however, denied the allegations. "It was not human waste that was dumped in the drainage. It was just liquid." she Jocelyn R. Uy

Short ride

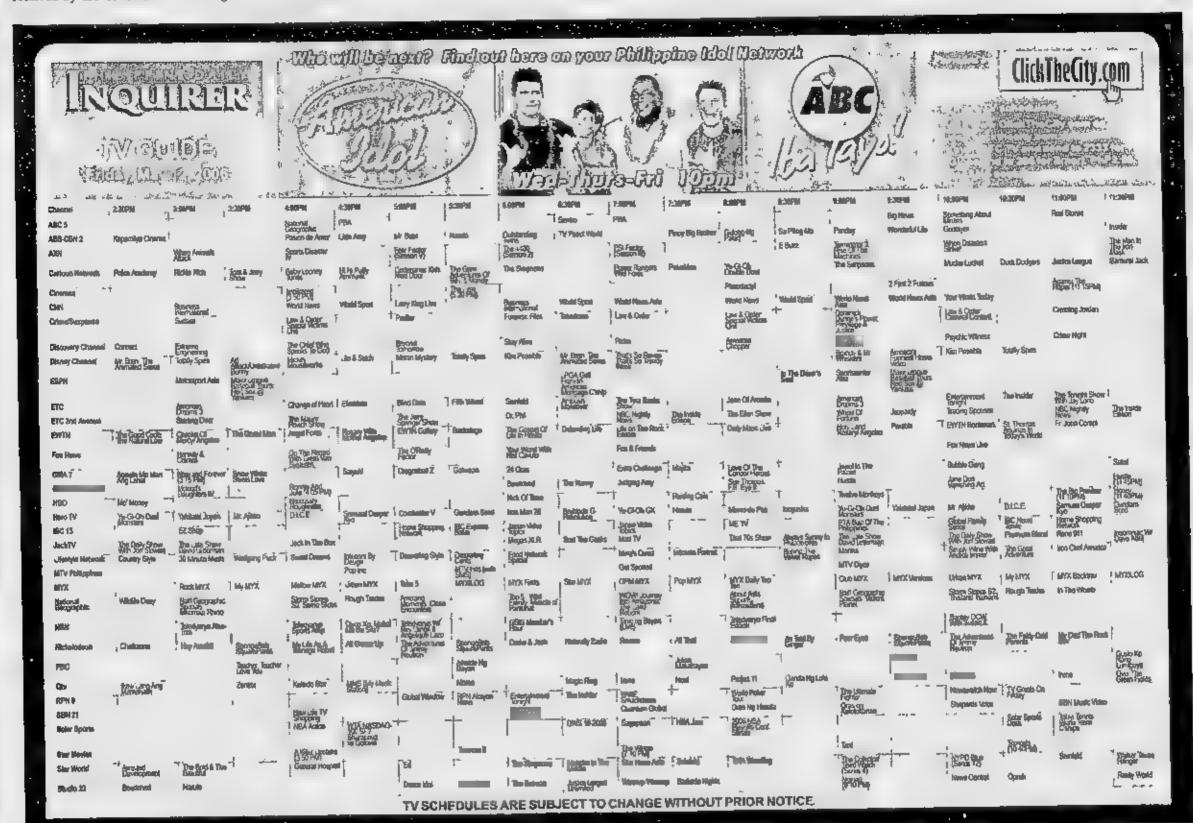
TWO suspected car thieves believed to be linked to the same group that stole the car of a congressman's wife in Quezon City recently were arrested before midnight Wednesday. A day after three armed men stole the Nissan Patrol of Pricilla Espino, wite of Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., police caught two suspected carjackers aboard the same getaway car used in the incident. The suspects were identified as Ernesto Sagabaen, 42, a car salesman also known by the alias "Mark Reyes," and Rolando Gatche, 22. investigators said the suspacts, with three other men, tried to hijack a Toyota Ray 4 owned by Redelfo Abrinico at 11 p.m. along Edsa, Balintawak. The suspects fled on board a black Mitsubishi Lancer and led pursuing police officers in a chase that ended in Caloocan City. DJ Yap

Operation not legit

POLICE arrested four of their own anti-narcotics agents during a tension-filled buy-bust operation in Manila yesterday. The four men turned out to be officers of the Manila Police District's anti-illegal drugs unit. The arrested men claimed they were conducting a legitimate operation when they were apprehended, but could not produce papers to back their claim and were not accompanied by affy official, according to Chief inspector Rodel Pastor. head of the arresting unit. Pastor's team seized more than a killo of suspected shabu estimated at P3.4 million found in a car altegedly owned by the four who were identified as P01 Erwin Castro, P02 Jonathan Ruiz, P03 Mike Fabian Ongpauco and Luigs A. del Puerto P02 Dranreb Cipriano.

Detox symposium

FOR its 8th founding anniversary, the Philippines Federation of Natural Health is offering to the public a free health symposium on body detoxitication on Saturday, May 13 at the Emerald function room, Tiara Oriental Hotel on Malugay Street corner Talisay, San Antonio Village, Makati City. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For reservations, please call Ms Emz at tel. 3717016



TOTAL BOTH HEALTH TO HARRED. CONTRACTOR ONLY Putin: Russia has to be strong vs 'fortress' US

growing arms race against a Russian leader said is losing "fortress" United States which 700,000 people a year. cares more about its own interests than democracy or human rights, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday in his annual state of the nation speech.

In a wide-ranging, nationally televised address to both houses of parhament, Putin spent most time on domestic issues, particularly the rapid decline of the

But his most biting comments targeted the United States, which has become increasingly erincal of Russia's human rights records, with Vice President Dick Cheney claiming last week that "opponents of democracy" were seeking to roll back post-Soviet

Putin warned that it was "pre-

MOSCOW-RUSSIA FACES A country's population, which the mature to speak of the end of the arms race. It is in reality rising to a new technological level."

He said that Russia was forced to react when the United States was spending 25 times more on defense.

"In the defense sphere, this is called 'their house is their fortress.' Well done! But it means that we must build our house strongly, reliably, because we see what's going on in the world."

Putin-who in July hosts US President George W. Bush and other leaders of the Group of Eight at a Saint Petersburg summit-swiped at US complaints that his seven-year rule has un-

dercut Russian democracy. Where does the whole pathos about the need to struggle for democracy and human rights disappear to, when the talk is about ensuring one's own interests?" he demanded "Then it seems ev-

limits at all."

He then borrowed a Russian saying to ulustrate the United States' alleged double standards. "As the saying goes, comrade wolf knows who to eat and he eats without listening to others."

Putin also laid out a vision of a Russia switching from an ageing and uncompetitive Soviet-era infrastructure to an economy centred on high-tech areas such as

erything is possible. There are no nanotechnology, nuclear power and the space industry.

"In conditions of flerce international competition, the country's economic development must be based, essentially, on its scientific and technological advantages," he said.

"Unfortunately, one has to face that the majority of the technical equipment used in the national economy is not years behind the top level, but decades."

Italy chooses president

ROME-ITALY PICKED A FORMER communist, Giorgio Napolitano, to be its new president on Wednesday, opening the way for Romano Prodi to become prime manister more than a month after winning a close run general election.

Napolitano, an 80-year-old senator for life, secured 543 votes from the "grand electors"-parl:amentarians and regional representatives-38 more than the absolute majority need-

The result was a crucial victory for Prodi who cannot take his center-left coalition into power until the new president gives him

a mandate to govern. It was the latest blow to outgoing Prime Minister Sitvio Berluscon, the media tycoon who took three weeks to accept he lost the April 9 10 national election by a wh.sker



SOLD TO THE SOUP LOVER FOR \$11.7M

A 1962 painting entitled: "Small Torn Campbell's Soup Can (Pepper Pot)," by pop artist Andy Warhol was sold at auction by Christies for \$11.7 million.

Why won't US, Iran work out differences in face-to-face talks?

By William J. Kole

VIENNA AUSTRIA-AS THE United States toughers its stance on fran's nuclear program, and bitterness toward Americans hardens on the streets of Tehran, many people can't help but wonder Why don't the two countries hold faceto-face talks to ease the crisis?

Some say Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's letter this week to US President George W. Bush-the first of its kind in nearly three decades—could break the impasse. But leaders, experts and commentators believe the prospects of the two meeting to defuse virtually irreconcilable differences are bleak at best.

Bush, they point out, doesn't want to engage in chalogue with the head of a state he labeled part of an "Axis of Evil" along with Iraq and North Korea. And Ahmadinejad's letter, while an overture, was laced with old gnevances against an America that Tehran brands the



IRAN President Malamoud Ahmadinejad

"Great Satan" and spelled out a long list of Iraman demands.

"Both the United States and Iran regard each other as a hostile country," Shen Dingh, director of the Institute of American Studies at Fusan University in Shanghai, China, said Wednesday

They don't believe the nuclear essue can be resolved through negonation. Iran believes it must ac-

quire nuclear weapons to ensure state security," he said. "The United States does not want to have direct talks with Iran just like it does not want to task with North Korea."

Shahin Gobadi, spokesperson for the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran, an extie group, said a Bush-Ahmadinejad summit is implausible because the Tehran regime "has not been willing to accept the norms and rules of conduct of the 21st century."

"This regime is built on the concept of medieval religious tyrandy. It's not compatible with chalogue," he told The Associated Press. "Ei ther you my to export your revolution to other countries or you dea, like a normal government"

If Ahmadinejad's 18-page letter sums up frans position in a stand off that has moved to the UN Security Council, then "there is no prospect of negotiation," said Steve Hoadley, an associate professor of political studies at New Zearand's Auckland University. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

A.M. Rosenthal, NY Times editor; 84



ROSENTHAL

NEW YORK-New York Times journalist A.M. Rosenthal, who left an indelible mark on the US newspaper during 17 years as its top editor. died on Wednesday at the age of 84, the paper said. Rosenthal suffered a stroke two weeks ago and never recovered, his son Andrew told the Times. Born on May 2, 1922 in Sault Ste Marie in Canada of a Jewish family with roots in Berarus, Rosenthal started with the paper in 1944 Rosenthal, known as Abe, covered the United Nations for the Times and later served as a foreign correspondent in India and Japan. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 for his reporting on the communist regime in Poland, which expelled him for his efforts. He rose through the

ranks to take over as managing editor beginning in 1969, later taking the title of executive editor. In 1971. Rosenthal played an instrumental role in the decision to publish the "Pentagon Papers," a secret government history of the Vietnam War President Richard Nixon's administration falled to block the publication of the papers that revealed a pattern of official deception. The dispute led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling that rejected the government's demand to require "prior restraint" on what may be printed. Rosenthal oversaw coverage of the war in Vietnam, the Watergate scandal, the Cold War and crises in the Middle East. Along with publisher Arthur Sulzberger, he is credited with heiping restore the paper's health after an economic sade and overseeing a new formet that has continued to this day.

Briton wants Guantanamo closed

LONDON---(in the most explicit British condemnation of the Guantanamo Say detention center, Lord Goldsmith, the atterney general, said Wednesday that the camp's existence was "unacceptable" and ran counter to the United States, tradition as a "beacon of freedom, liberty and of justice." He called for it to be closed. The remarks by Lord Goldsmith, the government's most senior adviser, went far beyond the set response offered by Prime Minister Tony Blair who, when asked for his views on Guantanamo, called it an "anomaly" that must at some stage close. The prime minister, America's closest ally in the military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, offered no direct comment on his aide's views. But his official spokesperson, who is not publicly identified under civil service rules, said the camp's existence presented a problem because American officials saw many of the detainess as dangerous people who could not be released

Hispanics, Asians fastest growing in US

WASHINGTON-HISPANICS AND Asians are the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, where one in three people now belong to a minority group, the US Census Bureau said Wednesday.

in 2005, the minority population totaled 98 million, or 33 percent of the 296.4 million US popmation, the agency said.

"These mid-decade numbers provide further evidence of the increasing diversity of our nation's population," Census Bureau director Louis Kincannon

Hispanics-a cultural grouping whose members may belong to any race or combination of races-were the largest and fastest growing US-minority, numbering 42.7 million and with a 3.3 percent population rate increase in the year ending July 1,

Of the increase of 1.3 million, 500,000 were new immigrants,

the bureau said.

Blacks formed the second largest minority group at 39.7 million and had a population rate increase of 1.3 percent.

The Asian population of 14.4 million grew by three percent More than half of this group's in crease-239,000 of a total 421,000-was due to immigra

The other minority groups sur veyed by the Census Bureau were American Indians and Alaska na tives, (4.5 million), and native Hawanans and other Pacific is landers (990,000). They grew by one percent and 1.5 percent, respectively.

Non-Hispanic whites represent almost 67 percent of the total population, but this group has an older median age and a slow growth rate, adding just 500,000 new members in the time period studied, the Census Bureau said





The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

1,091 killed in Baghdad in April

AN IRAQI woman weeps outside a hospital after her daughter was killed by a bomb attack in Kerbala, 110 km south of Baghdad May 7.

BAGHDAD---IRAQI PRESIDENT JALAL TALABANI on Wednesday said at least 1,091 people had been killed last month in sectarian violence in Baghdad alone, as a much anticipated parliamentary session produced little result.

raging Shute-Sunni communal bloodshed, Talabanı said "we received a report from the morgue about the deaths in Baghdad that 1,091 people were killed between April 1 and 30."

"We are shocked and angry at the daily reports of unidentified

Urging quick efforts to queil the bodies being discovered and of people killed on the basis of their identity." Talabani was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his

> The parliamentary session ended following a reading out of new internal regulations with no mention of an annerpated announce-

Parliament will reconvene on Sun-

Talabam said the overall number of people killed in the violence would be "alarming if we include the number of bodies still missing across lrag."

Turge all political parties and security forces to quickly move to quell this bleeding from crimes aimed to create doubts between sons of Iraq and disrupt national unity" he added.

Talabani also said that the current "institutional weakness," a lack of government, was "benefiting the terrorists."

Nearly five months since the December elections for the country's first full-term post-Saddam parlia-

ment of the country's new cabatet. ment, traq is still without a government due to wrangling between leaders over ministerial berths.

Raging sectarian violence has left thousands dead across Iraq, mostly Sunni Arabs, in Shiite reprisals after the bombing of a revered Shute shrine in the north-

era town of Samarra on Feb. 22. The sectarian bloodshed has torn Iraq at a time when the Sunnibacked insurgency has already left over 35,000 civilians dead, accordmg to some estimates, since the end of the US-led invasion in April

in the latest attacks, at least 16 people were killed across Iraq Wednesday, including 12 in an antbush near the restive city of Baquba, just north of Baghdad. AFP



BLUE ROSES FOR A RED LADY

The world's first "blue roses" developed by Japanese brewer Suntory are seen during a press preview for the Rose Show as part of the World Rose Convention in Osaka May 11.



2,000 US corruption cases

FBI to concentrate on public corruption now includes more than 2,000 investigations under way, highlighted by the Jack Abramoff lobbying mounty, the racketeering and fraud conviction of former Gov. George Ryan Sr. of Illinois and the multipronged corruption probes following the guilty plea by Randy Cunningham, a former Republican House member from San Diego, bureau

As one of the Bush administration's least known anticrime efforts, the three-year F8I mitiative has yielded an unexpectedly rich array of cases. The results suggest that wrongdoing by public officials at all levels of government is deeply rooted and widespread. Sever-

WASHINGTON—A POST 9/1.1 EFFORT BY THE all of the highest profile cases in which the FBI played an active role involve Republicans.

Bureau officials believe the investment in corruption cases is easily worth the cost. In 2004 and 2005, more than 1,060 government employees have been convicted of corrupt activities as well as 177 federal officials, 158 state officials, 360 local officials and 365 pohee officers, according to FBI statistics. That is a 27 percent increase in the number of convicrions in the last two years.

In an interview, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said. "You come to realize first of all that public corruption tears the fabric of a democratic society. You lose faith in public officials. It leads to cymcism. It leads to distrust in government."





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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Text as your tendback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 253 (Smart)



Powerhouse NCR poised for two-division sweep

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY (VIA BAYANTEL)-HEAVY RAINS AND gusts announcing the impending arrival of tropical storm Caloy wrecked yesterday's schedule but not after the National Capital Region had forged ahead in both elementary and secondary divisions of the Palarong Pambansa at the Metro Naga Sports Complex.

With their continued success in ath- em Visayas with 203. letics and swimming and new gains in taekwondo and lawn tennis, the Big City athletes took commanding leads based on the points system of the organizing Department of Education and on the unofficial medal count prepared by tallying partner Worldtech Resources Insti-

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, NCR was way ahead in the elementary competitions with 314 points. Defending champion Calabarzon was a far second with 209.5 points and Western Visayas an even more distant third with 126.

Rounding out the top 10 were Central Visayas with 91 points, Northern Mindanao 84, Central Luzon 82.5, Cotabato Region 59, Davao Peninsula and host Bicoi Region tied with 55, Mimaropa with 54.5 and flocos Region with 43.5 points.

It was the same NCR-Calabarzon-West Visayas leadership hierarchy in the events because of the weather," Palaro secondary division, although the gap was not as big this time.

Defending champion NCR showed the way with 310.5 points followed by Calabarzon with 269.5 points and West-

The rest of the top 10 in high school were Central Visayas (130), host Bicol (84), Northern Mindanao (70), Davao Peninsula (46), Mimaropa (42), Cotabato Region (36) and Central Luzon (34).

In the medal race, NCR kept the lead with 28 golds on top of 20 silvers and 17 bronzes. Calabarzon stood second with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 19-15-14 followed by Western Visayas (12-13-13), Northern Mindanao (6-5-4) and host Bicol Region (5-2-11)

The stormy weather forced the scrapping of the consolation rounds in basketball, volleyball and sepak takraw, but the championship games will be transferred to indoor facilities around the city like the Ateneo de Naga Gym.

"We have contangency plans in case the conditions worsen, but definitely there won't be any cancellation of national coordinator Len Toledo told the

Lawn tennis, football and track and field will push through as scheduled, he



jASON Damaran of Region 7 clears the bar at 1.79 meter to nall the gold.

NCR picked up four golds in elementary tzekwondo through Regine Emee Lumbo (girls 4-foot-6 to 4-9), Kim Alexas Garcia (girls 4-9 to 5-0), James Edward Cruz (boys 4-3 to 4-6) and Josh Emmanuel Ong (boys 4-6 to 4-9)

Lumbo beat Thea Danica Albaracin of Davao region for the gold and Garcia outscored Michelle Dagpin of Central Luzon. Cruz won over Calabarzon's John Robert Paras while Ong prevailed over Matthew Cordero.

Veteran Lea Casilihan clocked 16.1 Reyes in secondary long jump.

seconds to claim the secondary girls! 100-meter hurdles gold for NCR while Paul Noel Poiero and his brother Ryan won the elementary boys' doubles in lawn tennis over Central Visayas' Bernadine Siso and John Arnel Go.

Bicol seized a third gold in athletics when 11-year-old Angeline Panciles ruled the elementary girls' 400 meters, clocking' one minute and 3.2 seconds. Other Bicolano winners were Aiza Rosero in secondary shot put and Emmunanuel delos .





FIVE-GOLD winner Jasmine Al-Khaidi of NCR

returns to the dressing room after topping

er heat in the 100m butterily.



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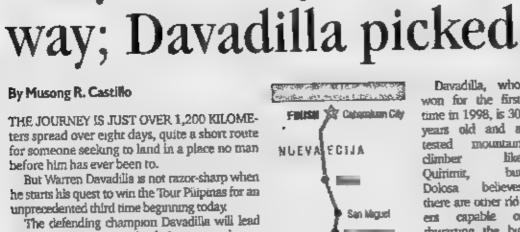








ORIX METRO



Padyak Pinoy under

79 other warriors on wheels in a strength-sapping trek, dubbed Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006,

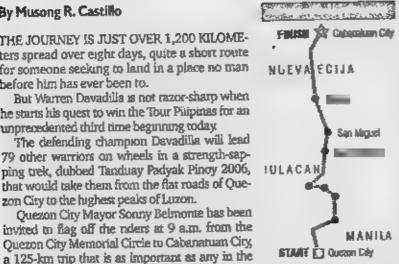
zon City to the highest peaks of Luzon. Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte has been invited to flag off the orders at 9 a.m. from the Quezon City Memorial Circle to Cabanatuan Ciry, a 125-km trip that is as important as any in the

summer spectacle's short but tough itinerary. Davadilla will be coming into the Tour with just a month's preparation, with the challenge to come from a talented field that includes Arnel

Quirimit, another former champ. The bikathon was postponed twice and chopped down ultimately to just eight stages. It does not offer prize money comparable to the big

purses in recent past. But Davadilla's bid for an unprecedented third victory will be the main focus of this event that has produced sports legends like Jose Surnakie

and Comelio Padilla Jr. "Another victory will make him the greatest champion of all time," Rene Dolosa, the Bicolano superstar of the 1990s, said in Filipino.



won for the first time in 1998, is 30 years old and a tested mountain) lilæ dimber but Quirimit, believes Dolosa there are other rident capable of thwarting the big guns like Erme Febciano, Santy Barnachea and Joel Calderon.

From Cabanatuan, the tour proceeds on a 208-km. journey to San Per-

nando Ciry in La Union before taking on the Tour's first real test, the 170-km San Fernando-to-Baguio tinrd stage.

There will be three "killer" climbs, the second taking place in Stage 6 when the riders tackle the "Tatlong Eme" inside the Quezon National Park in the trek from Lucena to Sta. Rosa City. The Tagayray-to-Tagayray seventh stage will

more or less determine the outcome, especially in

a portion of Talisay town in Batangas where the treacherous "Sungay Road" is located. Sungay Road is a 9-km stretch that has a 40degree incline, where more than a handful of rid-

ers were forced to dismount last year. A notal of P2.6 million is up for grabs.



We know of a 73 year old who's gone further than you. Beat him and drive off with hundreds of thousands in cash.





SPORTS

Bacchus-Harbour scores

stepped up in the payoff period to turn back Valencia Golden Harvest, 86-72, the other night and solidify its northern division lead in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the C.P. Tinga gym.

Pormer Ateneo Blue Ragle Magnum Membrere broke the backs of Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers, scoring most of his 15 points when it mattered as Bacchus/Harbour overcame 19-21 and 32-36 deficits in the first two quarters.

Lended at 54-all, coach Lawrence Chongson's . Manila squad waxed hot at the start of the

3:08 remaining.

back, taking the final blow in the last two munutes after assistant coach Nolie Tagsip was thrown out for incurring two technical

Relaga 13, Sta. Cruz 10, Jay Cuevas 9, Coyukang 7, Pritidhas 5, Jun Cuevas, Padilla 4, Pile 2, Masbang 2.

Quarters: 19-21, 32-36, 54-54, 86-72.

GUERRERO BRANDY NBC NAT'L TOURNEY

Morth Division Bacchus/Harbour Forward Taguig Batang Tagaytay Spring-P'fiaque Pangasinan Laguna-S. Rosa South Division Ozamiz Cetta (ligan Crusaders North Colabato Pagadian Hofle Warners

MLP, Davao booters hot picks SAN CARLOS CITY—

Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas coach Ed Nierras has been gambling on a different starting 11 in three games. And the ploy has been working wonders.

We have a deep bench and our players are very young," said Nierras, who hopes that altering his roster anew in today's semifinal against Negros Oriental will give them the edge in the 1st PFF-National Under-17 Girls' Football Championships here. "The girls have been playing better with every game."

GAMES TODAY (SJRI Fleid) osvsG--.m.s 8 vs iloba 2:30 p.m.---MPL vs Negros Oriental

With 12-year-old wonder girl Cristina de los Reyes stepping up for the injured April Cuenca, the MPL selection has created a stir not only for its looks but for its cohesive play.

De los Reyes has scored four goals so far as MPL captured the first semilfinal berth in Group C following victories against Cagayan de Oro and

Davao goes into the other semifinal match as the odds-on favorite against iloilo in this tourney sponsored by Petron, Red Ribbon and 2Go and Solar Sports' Sports Plus.

"We expect to win," Davao coach Julio Orcasitas said. "Our advantage is we have a healthy Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

My cousin Lara Mae

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—THERE THEY were, buried under a pile of junk mail from extled Nigerian generals, replica Rolex dealers and assorted Viagra sales people.

One of the notes came from a long-lost friend in New York who got hold of me after all these

And what do you know. The guy only wanted the skinny on whether I've changed my

Have you started wearing socks? he asked.

The other item came COMMENTARY from Manuel and Lauren Divina of Seattle, Washington, I knew right away that the word from the couple would

I was the first to know from Manuel almost two years ago that a cousin, David De.la-with help from wall-to-wall relatives and friends -- had

won a seat in the Seattle City Council. After David's upset victory, politicians wooing Filipino voters of the Pacific Northwest have to go

Now they have to learn to sing karaoke, appear in basketball leagues, and eat breakfast of topsilog (tenderloin beef strips, egg and fried rice).

I had no idea about Manuel's message this time around. Modest as always, Sonny (his nickname from boyhood), had merely forwarded an e-mail from his daughter Lara Mae.

Weird, but Sonny, a cousin of my late mom's, is about my age. That makes Lara Mae, his 28-year old daughter, a second cousin.

As brilliant relatives go, Lara Mae, the erstwhile sales and marketing chief of the NBA developmental league, America's version of Chino Trinidad's PBL, has moved on.

The e-mail says she has been named president and general manager of the Bakersfield (California) Jam, among the newest of the 12 farm teams that constantly ship talents to the NBA.

Check out the Bakersfield Californian newspaper story, she alerted her folks. Sonny in turn alerted me and no sooner had

he done just that than Lara Mae was calling on my cell phone.

Lara Mae had read my mind. Pictures are forthcoming to go with your story, manong, she assures. Please make sure the Californian gets the credit for the art, she reminded.

My cousin and I talked some more.

It is not about shattering the glass ceiling any longer.

It is now about destiny.

"My dream since I was 11 is coming true," she

It is a long way from her manageable target-becoming president and general manager of an NBA team.

Becoming the head hondho at the Bakersfield Jam is a damn good start.

Arriving in Seattle from the Philippines at a young age, Lara Mae heard the clarion call of basketball management early and often.

She was surrounded by a basketball-playing clan, including brothers Michael, 26, a computer engineering graduate and Mark, 25 a business major-en assortment of cousins and other relatives from the Divinas' hometown of Cuyapo,

Today, clan members remain regulars of Seattle's neighborhood cage leagues, either as players

Sometimes, Lara Mae joined the boys for a few three-on-three matches. But it was not the game that fired her interest, rather it was the whirl of errands before the start of a league, bush or ma-

She began to explore the business side of basketball in high school as an unpaid voluntzer of a now defunct Seattle women's basketball team.

in college she majored in business with emphasis on marketing to gain academic foothold on her profession of choice. After graduating from the Louisiana State University, she stayed at her alma mater to work on marketing the school to prospective students, alumni and the media

She took a respite to work outside her box, dabbling in fashion and radio. But In no time she went back to marketing, this time making the NBA's developmental league known to the world. The rest is not yet history, as far as Lara Mae is

concerned. She has higher targets to shoot for To open doors of opportunity, the Bakersfield

Jam president and general manager has a tip for aspiring executives out there: "Talk to people you meet in conferences, parties, everywhere. Net work, network and network," she says,

Right at the moment, she has hit the ground numning for the Jam. "I am both excited and grateful for this oppor

tunity to run the Bakersfield Jam as a model NBA D-League operation," she says. "I am committed, like the Jam ownership, to

offer a quality professional baskerball product and family fun at affordable prices, The Jam's commitment to the Bakersfield community wil be unparalleled."

BACCHUS/HARBOUR CENTRE-MANILA fourth and opened a 69-58 advantage with

Valencia never seemed to get its groove

BACCHUS/HARBOURL 88- Membrere 15, Hardin 15,

VALENCIA 72-Cruz 12, Braga 12, Cummings 11, After a nip-and-tuck third canto which Coltz 10, Navaies 7, Davel 6, Beranii 6, Cabill 4, Adams 2. Romaguera 2.

Toyota Otis takes No. 9 for solo lead

TOYOTA OTIS LEANED ON A STRONG FINish to hold off the Granny Goose Tortillos, .73-64, taking the solo lead for the first time with its third straight win in the 2006 PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports

Center in Parañaque. JV Casio and Aaron Aban joined hands in a 6-0 run that finally put away the Snackmasters, 70-

62, only 68 ticks left. With the win, the Sparks improved to 9-3 and now need only to win one of their last two games to claim one of two outright semis berths.

The Snackmasters slipped to 6-6, their bid for an automatic semis bid now in peril. in the other match, TeleTech bucked another collapse and tripped Hapee-PCU, 76-72, to keep

'its flickering quarterfinals hopes alive. The Titans squandered a huge 12-point lead late in the third period but managed to hang tough to north their third win in 12 games.

"We complimented our solid defense with our good shooting,* said coach Jerry Codifiera.

But it's going to be a tall order for the Titans to advance to the next round.

They need to beat Rain or Shine on Saturday and then Harbour Centre next week while also hoping the Portmasters lose all their three matches. The same thing goes for the Teethmasters,

Cossack Vodka

YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED BUT NOT

wanting in heart and talent, the Cossack Vodica

2006 bikathon starting today expecting to give

riders get going in the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy

today from Quezon City to Cabanatuan City.

according to observers.

individual race.

still entertains hopes of a grand achievement for

Cossack. No team has a distinct edge in the Tour,

Dolose, winner of the Tour in 1992 and 1995,

said he won't be surprised if one of his boys—his

team has an average age of 21-contend in the

Renato Sambrano, last year's top rocide, cap-

tains Dolosa's squad with Michael Reyes, a mem-

ber of the champion Colt 45 team, as his assistant.

They are the only ones with prior Tour experience.

National junior champion Irish Vaienzuela,

Believer was a former winner of the Tour ng

Nueva Vizcaya, while Camarino, the oldest at 28,

has been campaigning in races most of his life.

Leonel Dimaano, Roberto Torres, Nilo Jasut,

Edgardo Bellecer and Elli Camarino wil. be

marking their debut this year

the event's big guns a run for their money.

who suffered their sixth straight loss for a 3-9 record. In their case, they must also hurdle their last two games, including against Magnolia ke Cream. They must also hope that the Spinners will drop their two other games. Both the Port Masters and Spinners tote 5-6 records.

The Teethmasters managed to knot the count at 70-ali after a long and hard chase starting in the third quarter. But the Tizans stood up to the challenge as Francis Mercado came through with a church basket and Axel Doruelo hit two free throws with 23 seconds remaining.

TELETECH 76 -- Mercario 16, Gelig 13, Villarriin 13, Dorusio B, Capus B, Tang S, Mendoza 4, Latoreno 4, Magdadaro 3, Estrada 2, Sierra 0, Tolentino 0.

HAPEE-PCU 72-Bucan 16, Castro 13, Moreno 12, Espires \$1, Soils 8, Belga 6, Sanz 4, Razpon 2, Gonzales 0.

Quarters: 11-13, 35-29, 56-51, 76-72.

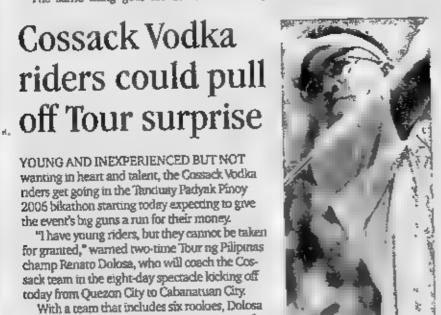
TOYOTA OTIS 73-Devence 17, Casio 11, Aben 11, Das 8, Coronel 6. Alcaraz 5, Andaya 4, Fajardo 3, Rodriguez 2, Orela 2, , arong 2, Bautista 2, Aldave C, Batuyot O, Cabahug C.

GRANKY GOOSE 64-Cruz 14, Latonio 10, Alfad 8, fibenes 8, Grijaldo 7, Outa Peris 6, Quiriahan 4, Santos 3, David 2, Saldda 2, Ababon 0, Ferrer 0, Conche 6.

Quarters: 21-17, 39-30, 57-44, 73-64.



TOYOTA Otis' Dennis Daa swats away an undergoal stab by Granny Goose big man JR Quiñahan.



ABDON: Biggest victory

Abdon humbles Bunyi in nat'l age group golf

big-hitting Gino Bunyi, 6 and 5, for the boys' Class A crown yesterday as the favorites lived up to expectations in the DHLwww.Express national age-group champi-

onships at the Villamor Golf Club course. Abdon, just one up after the morning round of the scheduled 36-hole final, pounced on the faltering Burryi in the third nine to stretch his lead to four en route to his biggest victory yer.

Bagino bet James Chain gare-crashed the party of the Big City bets when he turned back Chepe Dulay, 3 and 2, in their showdown for the boys' Class B crown of the tourney orga-

JOHN KIER ABDON OUTDUELLED THE mized for DHL-WWWExpress by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and the Jumor Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Bino dela Paz and Miggy Yee pulled off easy wins in boys' Class C and Class D, respectively. Dela Paz made short work of Lloyd Go, S and

3, while Yee stamped his class on RJ Tallaid, 6 Prevailing in the girls' division were Chilbiro

Breda, Regma de Guzman, Maan Legaspi and Felicia Medalla. Winners received their trophies from DHL-

WWWExpress president Joe Feliciano and Gerry Handog of Jungolf Foundation.

Briones leads Team Ellie to SM badminton title

Ezra Mijares captured the 6-and-under category and powered Team Elie to the overall title in the recent SM Storyland Junior Badminton Camp Tournament at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas.

Briones, adjudged as the most promusing player among boys, and Misares beat John Eldrich Lucio and Allysa

Joy Nañola in the finals. Team Ellie soored a clean sweep of all

BRYAN RAFAEL BRIONES AND MICAH four divisions disputed with Jerien Roel-Chaleyreene de Guzman taking the 7-8 age group, Alyssa Rubio-Marie Jan Abigail Cotaco topping the 9-10 class and Joshua Rafael Cruz-Harlene Tabunan rating the 11-12 division in the tourney which followed a weekend clinic conthicted by former national team players.

The SM Storyland Camp, held in partnership with SM Storyland and backed by Kimoni Phils., Dunlop, Unilever, Se-

lecta and Gerflor Taraflex, resumes this weekend with the clinic for the north side at SM Fairview. Top graduates will qualify for the tournament on May 21. For inquiries, call 8000614 or 9380506. Bagging runner-up honors were Jon El-

drich Lucido-Alyssa Joy Nañola (6-under), Reymundo Antoine Opiana-Alanis Angela Balots (7-8), Joseph Nari Biota-Mane Christina de Vera (9-10) and Ailcene Chavez-Erica Bianca Manalili (11-12).

Donor fatigue

I WAS ASTOUNDED TO READ THE other day that, despite its immense popularity and historical value, this year's Philippine Open golf championship lacks corporate sponsors. How on earth could the RP Open, the most prestigious golf tournament this side of the Pacific, be short of sponsors?

"Getting sponsors (for the Philippine Open) has become awfully difficult," Parren Hotham of the Asian Tour's marketing arm told veterati biquiten golf writer Jong Arcano, "It's been a real battle and g's quite amazing," added Parren, whose group is tasked to raise about \$750,000 (about P39 million) for the 90th edition of the event set for May 25-28 at the fabled East course of Wack Wack.

It is not only the organizers of the Philippine Open who are finding it hard to raise money for their respective events. I was told that even the people behind the staging of the World Pool Championship at the PICC in November and the country's preparation for the Asian Games on Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar, are also short of sponsors mainly because most of the mafor sponsors they want to tap have already committed themselves to bankroll

the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios non-ti-

The World Pool Championship in Manila needs \$1.1 million (about P59 million) to be able to stage it here.

onship in the Philippines is a good idea, but practical it is not, given the harsh economic difficulties of the times.

Asian Games. There are simply too many costly

sporting activities being slated here,

which, in my humble opinion, will be do-

in Europe awash with cash, the Philippines as not a nich country.

TENNIS Hero of Yesteryear: In the late 1940s and until the 1950s, Felicisimo "Throy" Ampon was the country's most dominant player. Cool, cunning and calculated, the 5-foot-3 Ampon left large footprints on the sporting scene not only because he best the best players of his time, but also because of his sponsmanship, honesty and fair play. He was named the first Arhiete of the Year of the Philippine Sponswriters Association in 1950 and, just a few years ago, was voted by the PSA as one of five RP Athletes of the Century.

During his heyday, Ampon was considered by both local and foreign media as the greatest tennis player in the world pound for pound. He compensated for his lack of power and height through skillful placements, precise anticipation of his opponents' moves and awesome staying power Among his victims were tennis giants Vic Seizas, Billy Talbert, Jack Kramer, Toos Brown and Ramanathan Krishnan.

Born on Oct. 26, 1920 to Felix Ampon

Ampon started his termis career at the age of 16. An accounting major at the Par Eastern University, Ampon proudly carried the green-and-gold colous of his school during his prime and rose to tennis greatness playing for the Philippine Davis Cup team from 1939 to 1968, the longest in living memory. He highlighted his Davis Oup campaign by leading the Philippines' 3-1 victory over India in the 1964 Asian zone. Then already 44, Ampon swept his singles matches against India's cop-ranked Premit Lail and Jorideep Mukherjea, And even though india won the doubles, Ampon's young partner, Johnny Jose, sealed the series by winning his singles assignment against Lall.

His favorite playing surface is Ancuka, a baked clay court which is a good court when wer but very slippery when dry. It is on this surface where Ampon won the 1950 Pan-American tennis crown, beating No. 3 seed Tom Brown in four nervefrazzling sets. Ampon also saw action in Europe, playing at the fabled Wimbledon in London and the French Open at the Roland Garros courts in Paris.



de bout at the Big Durne on July 2.

I say hosting the World Pool Champi-

Complicating matters is the enormous expenses to be incurred by some 200 Filipino athletes who will be needing a budget of not less than P100 million for their training and participation in the Doha

ing more harm than good to Philippine sports in the long run. Unlike the US, Chiand Josefa Hermoso in Sampaloc, Manila, na, Japan, South Korea or some countries

Ampon died in the US where he and his family migrated after his retirement.

Federer struggles past rival

ROME-NO. 1 ROGER FEDERER AND NO. 2 Rafael Nadal stayed on course for another final showdown with two-set victories over Italians in the second round of the Rome Masters on Wednesday.

Federer was tested by wild card Potito Starace before closing it, 6-3, 7-6 (2), and defending champion Nadai eased past Filippo Volandri, 6-1, 6-2, for his 49th straight win on clay.

"it's always hard to play local heroes, especially here in Italy," said Federer, mentioning previous matches at Foro Italico against Volandri and Andrea Gaudenzi.

Starage broke Pederer twice in the second set and the Swiss needed seven game points to hold for 6-5. He saved his best terms for the tiebreak though, serving his first ace of the match on the opening point, followed by a crosscourt backhand to end the match.

"You really have to beat him. He's not going to beat himself," said Federer, who began his day by meeting Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican during the pope's weekly general audience.

Nadal won the first set against Volandri in 26 mirrutes. At 1-2 in the second, he saved three break points and reeled off the last five games. AP

Refs to call World Cup really tight

LONDON-PLAYERS BEWARE, YOUR World Cup could be over almost as soon as it begins.

The 23 referees at the tournament in Germany have been instructed to harshly deal with the foul play that has become the scourge of modern soccer. Elbowing, recidess fouls and other violent conduct will result in a red card, disciplinary action and missed matches.

Getting yellow cards also is going to be easier: Unsportsmanlike conduct such as shirt pulling, holding opponents and deliberately stopping opposing players will result in automatic yellows.

FIFA is trying to rid soccer of the bad habits that are ruining many games.

Somer's decision makers approved modifications to rules that come into effect July 1, but decided the changes will be brought forward to introduce them at the June 9 tournament lockoft. AP

Heat, Clippers rip series foes

MIAMI-THE MIAMI HEAT STORMED TO AN EARLY LEAD over the New Jersey Nets and never looked back on Wednesday, rolling up a 111-89 win to even their best-of-seven Eastern Conference playoff series at 1-1.

Dwyane Wade scored 31 points, including 17 lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 122-97 win in the first quarter, while Shaquille O'Neel had over the Suns. 21 as Miami jumped out to a 25-4 lead and

were never threatened. Miami had fallen behind early in Game 1 and never recovered but set a completely different tone in Game 2, taking a 41-19 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

The series now moves to New Jersey for games three and four on Friday and Sun-

"We played probably the best quarter of the year," Miama coach Pat Riley told reporters. "We need-

Jason Williams added 14 points for the Heat, who shot 53 percent from the field, and Udons Haslem added 11 points and hauled down 10 rebounds. We didn't wanty

to have two games in a row like that," O'Neal told reporters. Vance Carter led New Jersey

with 22 points, but the Nets shot just 40 percent and appeared out of synch right from the start of the game. Richard Jefferson shook off an ankle

injury he suffered in Game 1 to score 16 points for New Jersey, while Jason Kidd added 15 points.

"Their overall intent was greater and sharper than ours," New Jersey coach Lawrence Frank

In Phoenix, Elton Brand scored 27 points to ally every possession.

The best-of-seven Western Conference series is tied 1-1, with games three and four in Los Angeles on Friday and Sunday.

Cuttino Mobley and Sam Cassell added 23 points for the Chippers, who led 65-51 at the half en route to an impressive offensive performance.

Raja Bell led Phoenix with 20 points, while Leandro Barbosa scored 18 points and Steve Nash had 14 points and eight

> The Clippers won by abandoning the idea of trying to keep pace with the running, gurning Suns and instead flexing their muscles.

Sparked by Cassell, the Clippers raced to a 20-6 lead in the first six minutes and never looked back. They thereafter, and their

> Brand and Chris Kaman-who was neutralized by the quick pace Game One-had

Phoenix physically incinidated, particularly in the first half

Before the break, the Clippers scored on virtu-Reuters, AFP



MIAMI center Shaquille O'Neal emphatically swats the ball away while defending the basket.

led by double digits for all but 26 seconds Hornets' Paul top rookie

largest lead was the final OKLAHOMA CITY-NEW OR- the only other first-place vote. leans point guard Chris Paul won the NBA's Rookie of the Year award on Wednesday after helping the Homets double their win total in a season in which they were forced from their home city by Hurricane Katrina.

Paul was a runaway choice for the award, receiving all but one of the 125 first-place votes. Utah guard Deron Williams received

It was the largest margin of victory since San Antonio's David Robinson was a unanimous choice in 1990.

Paul led al. rookies in points (16.1), assists (7.8), steals (2.2), double-doubles (21), minutes played (36.4) and triple-doubles (2) He also became the second NBA rookie to lead the league in steals, joining Brevin Knight. AP

Yankees' Rodriguez silences critics, boss

NEW YORK- ALEX RODRIGUEZ ANswered critics-incuding Yankees boss George Steinbrenner-with a fifth inning home run that helped New York to a 7-3 victory over Boston here on

"A-Rod" homered with two outs in the timued in his first two at-bats.

bottom of the fifth to snap a ue and convert jeers to cheers at Yankee Stadium.

WADE: Quick start #

Entering in a 7-for-38 slump and coming off a two-error game in Tuesday's 14-3 loss that drew the ire of Yankee farts and Steinbrenner, Rodriguez's struggies con-

Grambi on first, Rodriguez struck out on three pitches. The boos increased in the thurd when he followed Giambi's two-run home run with a weak foul out to first base.

"It's more of a frustration (from the fans)," Rodriguez said. "They're antsy just

With the Yankees trailing, 2-0, and Jason like we all are. They want to see me do well. But when you stink, you deserve to get booed."

"Alex is phenomenal," Giambi added. "At the end of the year, his numbers are going to be unbelievable. That's why you can't get too upset in such a short period."

Jao in flawless Shell start

DEFENDING CHAMpion Jolet Jao proved he's still the country's best road rider when he swept both Expert division races during the luckoff of the 2006 Sheli Advance-San Mig Coffee Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.



JAO: Seeking No. 10

Jao pulled off his victory double at the expense of his perennial rival Benjo Mendoza with Roderick Chun placing thurd in both 10-lap

He clocked 15 minutes 49.458 seconds in top-

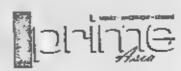
ping the morning race, finishing 7.882 seconds ahead of Mendoza. Jao won by 4.270 seconds in the second race.

Jao, eyeing his 10th crown this season, was even more unforgiving in the afternoon, improving his earlier winning time with a 15:47.888 clocking after setting the day's fastest lap time of

Wacky del Rosario and John Diego checked in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Sharing honors with Jao was Aries Pathernos, who also scored a sweep in the Sub 400 or division of this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association (NAMSSA) and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, San Mig Coffee, Casmo Filipino, Yokohama, Denso, Arai and







present the

Taekwondo tiit slated

ACTION IN SM SUMMER SPORTS TOJR REsumes today with the staging of taekwondo competitions as lins in various age divisions battle for supremacy at SM Southmall in Las Piflas, Taekwondo is the featured discipline in a series of sports events lined up by SM chain of mails in its effort to help contribute to the country's sports programs. It has so far been staged at 12 SM mails. Among the events to be disputed are the junior man's and women's division (novice and advance) and grade school boys and girls (novice and advance). Also on tap in the summer sched-Jie are wushis demo and competitions, football exhibition games and its centerpiece JVC Open junior badminton championships. The football fun games actually resumed at SM San Lazaro yesterday and will end today.

Pasay derby today

MORE THAN 60 MATCHES WILL SPICE UP ANother exciting edition of the Pasay Cuckpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby series today at the air-contritioned Pasay City Cockpit. This will be the seventh of eight derbies which are the basis in selecting the 2006 PCCA Cocker of the Year. Main sponsor Is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. It's still a wide open battle among the top contenders in this event sponsored mainly by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Up next on May 19 at Pasay Cockpit is the RS Fairview 4cock derby of Roger Segtsmundo, who confirmed no less than 40 sure entries. For additional info, please call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

SPORTSWATCH

SEC hosts 4-cocker

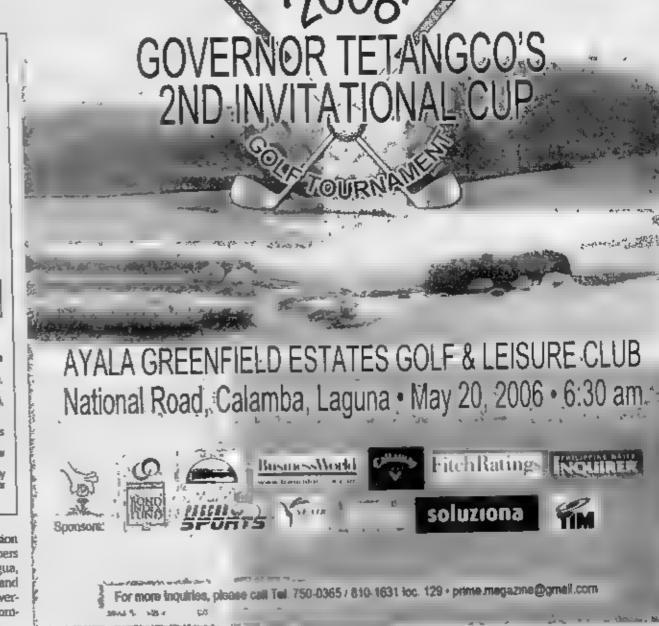
THE ARIEL AND SHID 4-COCK DERBY KICKS off Monday, May 15 at the San Juan Colliseum. According to hosts Renato Shio and Aries Garovtilo, no less than 70 fights are expected on Monday's showdown which will start at 5 p.m. For an entry lee of P11,000, the total guaranteed prize is P300,000 in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Meanwhile, 15 more additional entries (ten local and five foreign) were confirmed for the SJC 9-Cock International Dertry which is set on June 5, 7 and 9.

Place 1 (Tri)— Ocean Digitaly (3), Accomplises (5),



2—(Ort/To)— Stressand (6) Stresand (6).
Rock Attack (4), Scene Steater (3), Blue Botom (1)
Race 3 (Ont/Tri)—Operating Statement (6), Tango, With Mn (5), Bull Rider (2), Beagle Two (1)
Race 4—(Ont/Tri)—Zamuga (4), Striker (7), Angle Gray (6), Regns Supreme (1)
Race 5—(Penta/Ont/Tri)—Olef Olef Olef (8), Medat's Time (4), Power Dance (3), Expeditor (5), Steel Smashin (3), Race 6—Monatisa (2) Meghay Marre (1)
Race 6—Monatisa (2) Meghay Marre (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Ont/Sri)—Common Goal (8), Reinn Of Roses (7), Sound Of The Wind (6), Regica (1), Fair Urbija (3)
Race 8—(Ont/Tri)—Juyvre's Godatter (6), Tangung Bose (1), Habagat (2), Ounch Pick (3)
Race 9—(Super 6/Ont/Tri)—Pyramid Relaunch (1), Delby (8), Ouant Je Puts (6), Malcall Yavan (3), Bunion Buster (5), Oo it Oavid (7)





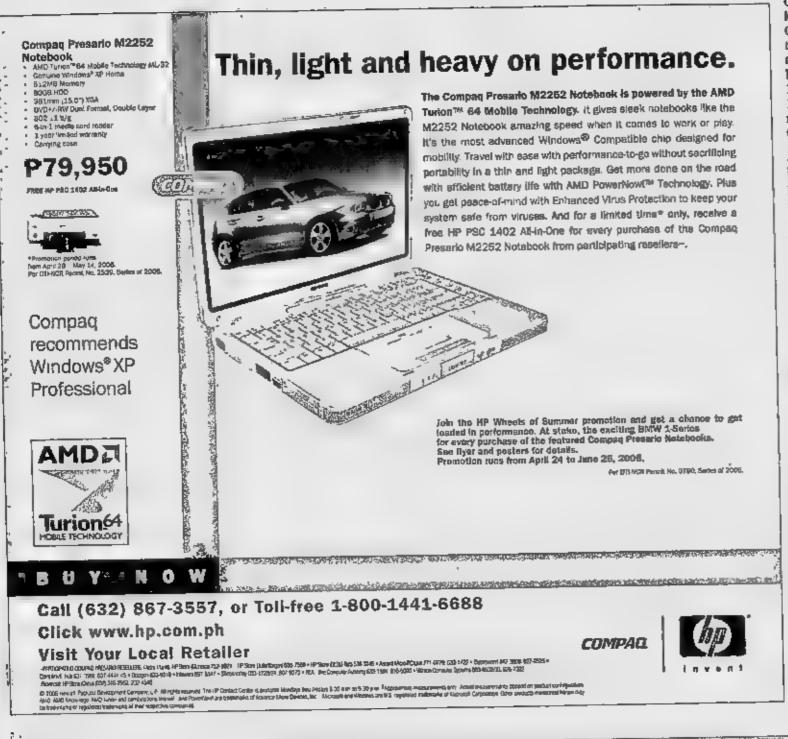
Chess at SCOOP

CHESS AND SOPTBALL ARE THE MAIN TOPics in today's session of the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (SCOOP) at the Kamayan Padre Faura.

starting at 10:30 a.m. are RP men's members GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Ankonso, Mark Paragua, Darwin Laylo, Oliver Dimalciling, Wesley So and women's members Sheerie Joy Lomibao, Beverly Mendoza and Catherine Pereña who will compete in the World Chess Olympiad next week.



Alcantara nails 2 titles in Sri Lanka



COLOMBO, SRI LANka—Top seed Francis Casey Alcantara of the Philippines seized the singles and doubles titles in the Asian 14-Under Series Week 1 at the Sri Lanka Tennis Association Tennis Center last Sunday

Akcantara, the 14year-old rising star of
RP tennis from Malaybalay City, Bukkinon,
worked behind a soud
forehand to win the
singles over Japan's
Khohhei Kamono, 7-5,
6-4, before teaming up
with Malaysia's Juan

Los Santos to take the doubles title over India's Aarjay Hanson and Vishwesh Sinha, 6-0, 2-6, 6-2.

"I med to be consistent with my Juniors tilt in Indonesia next week.

game," said Akantara, a high school sophomore at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro.

Akantara, now ranked No. 1 14-under player by the Asian Tenrus Federation, also won the singles title in the first leg and the doubles crown in the second leg of the Group 1 Asian Championships held in

Bangkok last month.

The only Pilipino in the ITF Team that will play in the Young Stars Tour in Europe in July, Alcantara also ruled

Melbourne, Australia, last year.

He will see action in the World.

Juniors tilt in Indonesia next week.

the ATF 14-Under Series Masters in

Warriors make Final 4

ALCANTARA

TALISAY CITY—THE TOYOTAfloilo Warriors claimed the fourth and final spot in the Visayas Division semifinals of the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketbali. Association (MVBA) First Conference last Tuesday by nipping the West Negros College Mustangs, 74-70, on the road at the Talisay City Gym.

The IBL-backed Warnors's win gave them an unassailable twogame lead over the Mustangs in the tourney backed by ML Kwarta Padaia, Coxanong Shipping Lines, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Molten, Panasonic and Sulpicio Lines.

The National Students champion Mustangs held a six-point lead after three periods.

The scores: TOYOTA-ILOILO 74—Balgos 20, SeSTANDINGS W
Visayas Division
M. Lhuillier-Cebu 8
Landmaster-Toledo 5
Mantawi Traders 3
Toyota-lioße Warriors 2
West Negros College M
Mindanao Division
Semifinals Best-ol-3

No. 1 seed tilgan Archangels tied with No. 4 Montane-Davao, 1-1. No. 2 PacMan-GanSan tied with No. 3 Pryca Pharma-MisOr, 1-1

5

nierez 19, Bautista 10, Sancii 7, Sanz 5. Sinco 5, Leonida 2, Bayhon 2.

WEST MEGROS 78—Tizon 24 Clarte 15, Espiritu B, Deocadis B, Millarin 7 Vergars 4. Laurenio 4, Dapar 2. Quarters: 21-21, 37-35, 50-56, 74-70



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ZSA ZSA Padilla:

"He said I was funny

in 'Legal Wife?"



Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ams leedback; inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or neath as at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Zsazsa: Dolphy II?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT HASN'T BEEN LOST ON CONCERT-GOers: Zsazsa Padılla has a flair for comedy. Onstage, Zsazsa debunks her sukry

chanteuse image with wacky oneliners and quick

And then she won Best Actress in the last Metro Manila Film Festival for her comedic turn in "Ako Legal Wife: Mano

Is she the next Dolphy? Is she following in the footsteps of the country's Comedy King, who also happens to be her life partner?

"No," she protests when INQUIRER Entertanument brings up the prospect. "I can't imagine... I can't absorb the ideal"

She admits, however, that 17 years of togetherness invariably ends in osmosis. "I've definitely imbibed his humor," she

Dolphy himself thinks Zsazsa is a blast. "When we watched 'Ako Legal Wife,' he told me I was funny," she recalls. "Before that premiere night, I kept asking him: 'What if the people don't laugh?' I held his hand throughout the screening. He was so cool. He said, 'Don't worry."

She believes they complement one another. "He's very laid-back. I'm the worner. If someone in the family coughs, I'm aiready thinking: Could it be cancer? Should we go to the hospital?"

The topic of weddings makes Zsazsa

2SAZSA/A2-6

DID You Know...

RP 'Idol' screenings today

PAST-TRACK screenings for "Philippine Idol" start today, 10 a.m., in SM malls nationwide. Applicants will be asked to fill up necessary forms, and then perform two songs before a set of judges. More on A2/6.



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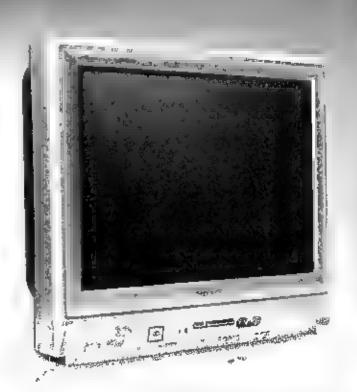
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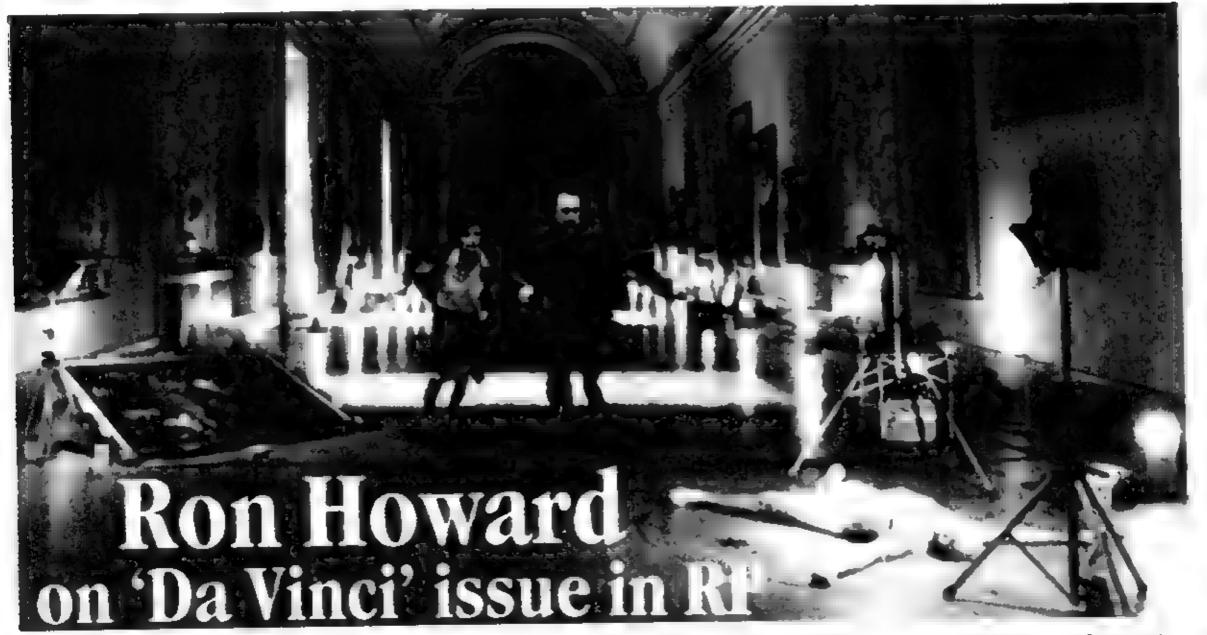
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...and Inquirer Entertainment gets a privileged peek at this year's most controversial movie

LOS ANGELES-INQUIRER GOT an exclusive peek at this year's most controversial and most talked about movie, the adapta tion of Dan Brown's bestseller, "The Da Vinci Code "

Director Ron Howard himself introduced the 35-minute footage to us last Monday morning at the Backstage Theatre inside Sony Pictures Studios. The filmmaker behind the 2001 Oscar and Golden Globe Best Picture Award winner, "A Beautiful Mind," explained that he was still editing "The Da Vinca Code" for its opening at Cannes this month so he could only show a portion to us. "I wanted you to have a feel of the movie," he said

What was shown to us by the former child actor was footage of the major plot scenes in sequence. The most gripping scenes involved a nude Paul Bettany, as Silas, the albino monk, flagellating himself. The 60 million folks on this earth who have read Dan Brown's suspenseful novel about how a murder at the Louvre triggers exciting events deal ing with art and religion know that Tom Hanks plays Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon.

The rest of the formidable internapopal cast includes Audrey Tautou (Sophie Neveu), Ian McKellen (Sir Leigh Teabing), Jean Reno (Bezu Fache) and Alfred Molina (Bishop Aringaresa)

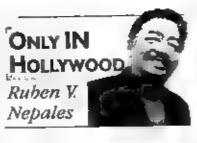
After the screening and a quick break, Ron came back to the theater for a press con. We got to ask the filmmaker to comment about the controversy that the film is stirring in the Philippines. We just learned that the Sangguniang Panglunsod of Lucena approved a resolution last May 4 saying it is "strongly against the showing and presentation of 'The Da Vinci Code' in an cinemas or theaters within the territorial jurisdiction of the city of Lucena." We also read that Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles also called for the ban of the film.

Below are excerpts of our press con with Ron.

Some members of Opus Dei, local governments and conservative religious groups in the Philippines are reportedly calling for a ban on "The Da Vinci Code." Can you comment on this?

I'm a filmmaker, a storyteller-and so freedom of artispe expression is at the center of my whole, my reason to exist. I fully respect and understand any audience member's choice not to see a movie. But to deny other people who may find value in the story the right to see it, that's kind of militant. I don't advocate militancy in enforcing or defending belief systems because I think that leads to oppression, violence and hatred. I wouldn't support or advocate

that, Individual choice? Absolutely, The other thing that I would say is that no one has actually seen the film. I don't have it ready [Until today] I couldn't even show it to folks like you, whom I'd like to show it to. So the fact is that anyone who is talking about the film-ter's be honest—they're unlizing the high profile status of the story and the publicity that's swirting around the movie to make sure their own ideas are heard. That's okay, too, but ler's understand as well what that is.



Are you glad there is so much controversy surrounding this movie, or is it bothering you?

I have mixed feelings about it because it's not my nature at all to be confrontational, combative or provocative. I chose this story because I thought that many of the ideas in this novel were very thought-provoking and very intriguing. As a storyteller, I thought about it in great detail and decided that it was a great way to take a work of fiction that many people would want to see on film and actually generate discussion and debate. So ultimately, feel that's a very bealthy thing. When fiction stimulates the mind and results in a dialogue between (groups of) people, that's a good

From the Philippines to the Vanican and even in a newspaper in Norway there's a lot of discussion going on about the book and movie. How aware are you of all these?

The Internet is a fabrilous thing, if the studio tries to hide something. I find it anyway (laughter). I have a sense of how people are responding I've had many conversations with Dan Brown who has been aware of the novel stirring a similar kind of controversy for years. I get back to the fact that, while I am not the kind of person who seeks out controversy. I am not surprised that the story and the premise of this particular thriller are surring that kind of discussion and that articles are being written about it, pro and con.

One of the things that good fiction. has to offer from time to time is that it will sumulate some debate and discussion. It's part of the fun of going to see it. I hope the movie is exciting and people who don't want to have a care in the world would want to go and watch the mystery unfold m an interesting way. I hope they enjoy the movie. I think it works on a number of levels.

I just came back from Chile which, like the Philippines, is a predominantly Catholic country. Do you think the book and movie will shake people's beliefs? Were you yourself affected? Did you learn something from reading the book

or making the film? First of all, I think we tend to underestimate the intelligence of readers and moviegoers when it comes to something like "The Da Vinci Code"-which is a novel, a work of fiction-and the way they respond to it. People are far more capable of reading a novel or seeing a movie and making some really healthy, constructive decisions themselves as to what is thought-provoking and what isn't, and [what is] part of interesting entertainment.

What I myself have learned, I am not going to reveal. But ... working on this film was sort of a life-chang-

ing experience for me on a lot of levels. Spending that time in Europe, learning about the history and looking back at the story theologically was fascinating. I am not going to tell you my conclusions because that's personal, but it's the kind of story that does create really interesting conversation. What's [useful] to acknowledge is that human beings have not solved all the mysteries of the world. That doesn't take away from our need for faith because some questions will never be answered. [For me] that comes back to a need for faith and that's a pure

There were earlier reports that you were trying to tone down the controversial theological points. Were there debates on how faithful the movie should be to the

Before the adaptation began, the theological aspects. I have to say I respect the executives at Sony because they quickly said no. They took my position-that we know what this story is and we understand that some of the ideas are controverstal and we're not going to try to mollify the critics. This is a movie, not the book. It will be interesting to see what people think of it. I made some creative choices that are my own. Whether people think that makes it more intense or less intense, will be part of the discussion. as well. But we ultimately decided it would be foolish to tone it down.

What about the request to insert a disclanner that this is a work of fiction?

When you put a disclarmer on a work of fiction, you're sort of removing the fun of it. What you're trying to do is get an audience to suspend dishelief and go along on the ride. As much as I admowledge that the movie deals with some themes that can be very controversial for some people, I am also trying to serve an audience that really wants to go and lose themselves in a movie and have

How do you think the movie will face in predominantly Catholic countries?

We've discovered that the presales in a number of the countries 1 4

GON House (Constanting)

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those places have lived for a long some creative decisions and probatime with a lot of complex issues surrounding their church. I think they're actually more comfortable with that in a way and less threatened because they know what they believe. That's just my theory. I suspect that people will see it, be intrigued, talk about it the way they talked about the novel-and go on with their lives.

There are so many interesting sections in the book and probably in the movie as well. Which scene did you enjoy filming the most?

There are so many fantastic scenes, I am not sure I can limit it to one. But I can limit it to two. The opening sequence was exciting to shoot because we did much of it an the Louvre but also, cinematically it was very important to establish the right tone, the sense of the movie as a thriller, a suspense piece. We activeved an authentic feel by really there was a sort of discussion about being in the Louvre and using much of the real artwork. So, directonally, that was a challenge, I really like the way it turned out. It's also a some that's well remembered from the book. I wanted to capture that spirit as much as possible for the movie.

The other one is a sequence at Sir Leigh Teabing's (Ian McKellen's character) estate, Chateau de Villette. Here many of the provocative conspiracy theories are presented. It is an important section in the novel. As a director who loves working with great actors, it was a terrafic opportunity because here you had a crucial section with Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen all sort of circling each other and debating these wild ideas that are really at the center of our story's mystery.

What kind of research did you do? In what sections did you adhere

most closely to the book? I digin't speak with any Opus Des members but I did a great deal of research about virtually many of the aspects of the movie. [As for] identilying how similar it is to the novel, I decline to do that because part of the fun for people who have read the novel is going to see for themselves what they think of the movie adaptation. It's very frustrating when you have a novel of this quality a story that's this interesting, because it's a hig book.

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So, 1

bly somewhere down the line, some of the somes that one might remember from the book that didn't make it into our final cut may wind up in a longer version for DVD release. We made those difficult choices to make the film really work and stand on its own as a movie. At the end of the day, this is a movie experience. It's not just someone reading the noves.

Did you try to find new codes and symbols in the paintings of Da

I met with a couple of art historians who explained to me the common symbolism used particularly by the Renaissance painters. That was really interesting. When I was filming at the Louvre and I had a moment to pause, I could read more into the paintings because I did understand the hidden language and it was rewarding. It was great. It also gave me a headache (laughter)

way I look at art; I still look at art in it into something that it an emotional way rather than look for subtle communications. One thing that I did is visually build some codes into the movie. I don't want to give clues away and it's going to be easier for people to find it once they have the DVD and they can freeze the frames. But we built in some symbols into some of the composinons and I did them as a kind of a game. I worked them out with Dan Brown. It was really fun but I also did it because, as a director, I wanted another reason to frame certain images in a slightly unusual way because this story takes place in a very short period of time.

Are you aware of the industries that have sprung up around the whole "Da Vinci Code" phepomenon?

Yes. Very early on, within weeks after deciding that I wanted to do the movie, Brian Grazer, my producing partner at Imagine, Aktva Goldsman, the writer, and I went on the "Da Vinci Code" tour in London and in Paris. The person giving the tour didn't know that we were working on the film and that we had already read the novel three or four times each. He kept describing evcrything about the story in great de-

rail and at a certain point we said, we really know real ible nes 1-39/2 rtuinc **iout** and eyei do

learn a lot about your world.

You have directed Tom several times. How is your collaboration with him at this stage in your

Early on, when I senously began considering doing the movie, Tomgave me a call and said, "Do you want to talk about The Da Vinci Code?" He had read it and really liked it. He was intrigued about playing a career academic and man of that [level of] intellect. He had a real instant sense of the character that I thought was absolutely authentic. I really wanted authenticity in the characters to counterbalance the strangeness of the story. One of the things that he kept saying was, "Let's get as much of the book into the movie as possible." He was a big advocate of that He has a fantastic buishit detector. He wants to try to find the truth in his character and present it as much as possible so he I don't think it has changed the was never interested in trying to turn

wasn't-some kind of a superhero, super sleuth of a role. He approached it in a land of Hitchcockian way. He's an Everyman who is not used to being exposed to violence, not used to being threatened himself but used to solving things with his mind, not his physicality. He is suddenly thrown into a very dangerous STARTON

I can talk about two things that we did with the Langdon character that won't hurt your experience when seeing the film. One is that, while "Angels and Demons" precedes "The Da Vinci Code," in our movie version that hasn't happened. So Langdon has never been involved in a case before. Our movie Langdon is truly is an innocent in terms of never having been involved in a criminal investigation. The other thing was that we made Langdon a but more of a skeptic so that he is debating and questioning a lot of the clues that are coming up. It makes him again a little more like an aud.ence member; somebody that the audience can relate to because he's seeing a lot of possibilities all the time. That's the way Tom's mind works. Frankly, if Tom Hanks did not become an actor, I am really certain that he would have become a high profile academic. He loves history. He loves that kind of problemsolving. He's fascinated by the world and the way it works, loves to talk and think about it, loves to consider all the possibilities so he took to this character really well.

Are you making "Angels and Demons" (another novel by Dan Brown) later on?

We have no immediate plans to do "Angels and Demons." There's a great character in that one. We have so many what-ifs in this movie that I don't want to get into the what-ifs of that one (laughter). We'll face those production problems as they come.

Any plans to act again?

No. I have so many films that I want to make and not enough time to make them. So I don't have any plans to act.

(E-mail the columnist rimepales_5585@yahoo.com.)



'Da Vinci' defender

From Jojo Iligan (joeyiligan05171966@yahoo.com):

AN ANTI-PORNOGRAphy group yesterday said it will file a complaint today against the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board for allowing the importation of the film "The Da Vinci Code."

The Philippine Al-Against liance Pomography said the film violates Presidential Decree 1986 which bars the MTR-CB from importing any film that are deemed libelous or defamatory to the good name and reputation of any person, whether living or dead.

Can't these idiots do anything worth doing? They are thinking with their other heads! Morons... I hope they all die. Of STD. Any STD will do. Idiots!

Right on the head

From Erik dela Peña (concernedfilipmo@gmail.com), Quezon City

FEEL THAT NESTOR Torre hit the nail on the head when he noted: "In different ways, most of the five remaining finalists are deserving of victory in terms of talent, so the final decision is likely to be really close, and could depend on the prospective winner's grit and charisma,

above all else." This comes as particularly insightful given that press releases in the Philippine Daily Inquirer regarding the requirements. for "Pinoy Idol" have the age limit pegged at 28. Not to be age-ist, but older singers of 28 and 29 can often given younger singers of 16 to 20 a good run for their money in terms of sheer grit and expenence. There's no venue on local television for singers in their 30s, and that isn't right, especially since "American Idoi" is all about that dream. Given that Taylor Hicks, Mandisa, Bo Bice, and Constantine

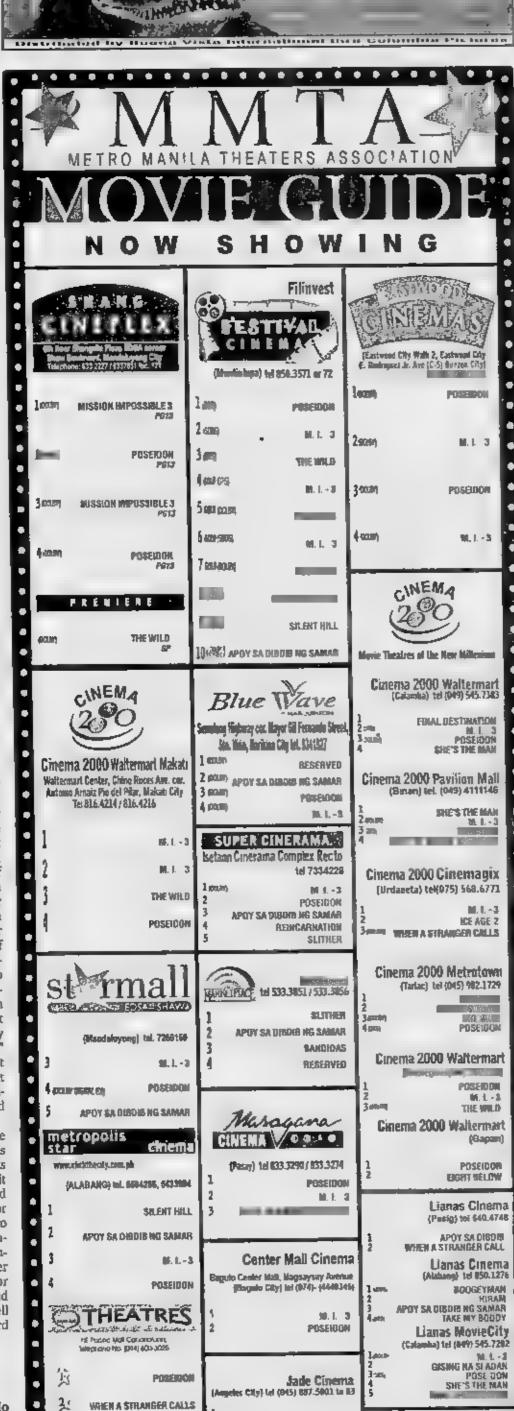
Maroulis all made the cut at peak ages of 28 and 29 (H.cks at 30), doesn't it seem right to extend the age limit for "Philippine Idol to 30? It's for this reason that Oprah Winfrey launched her own talent show for singers above 30, and the winner, Lashell Griffin, got a record deal with Sonyl

Who's that boy!

From Homer Yulo (homer_d_great@y.a hoo.com), Tokyo,

Japan YOU HAVE A COLumn about a child "star"? named BJ?... who is he... sikat ba yun? Sana kung magfeature kayo ng arust sa column nyo yung makakarelate naman kami... at hındi yung kung sino di namin kilala. Yun lang po. That story is not interesting at all, Comment lang to ha so dont be offended.





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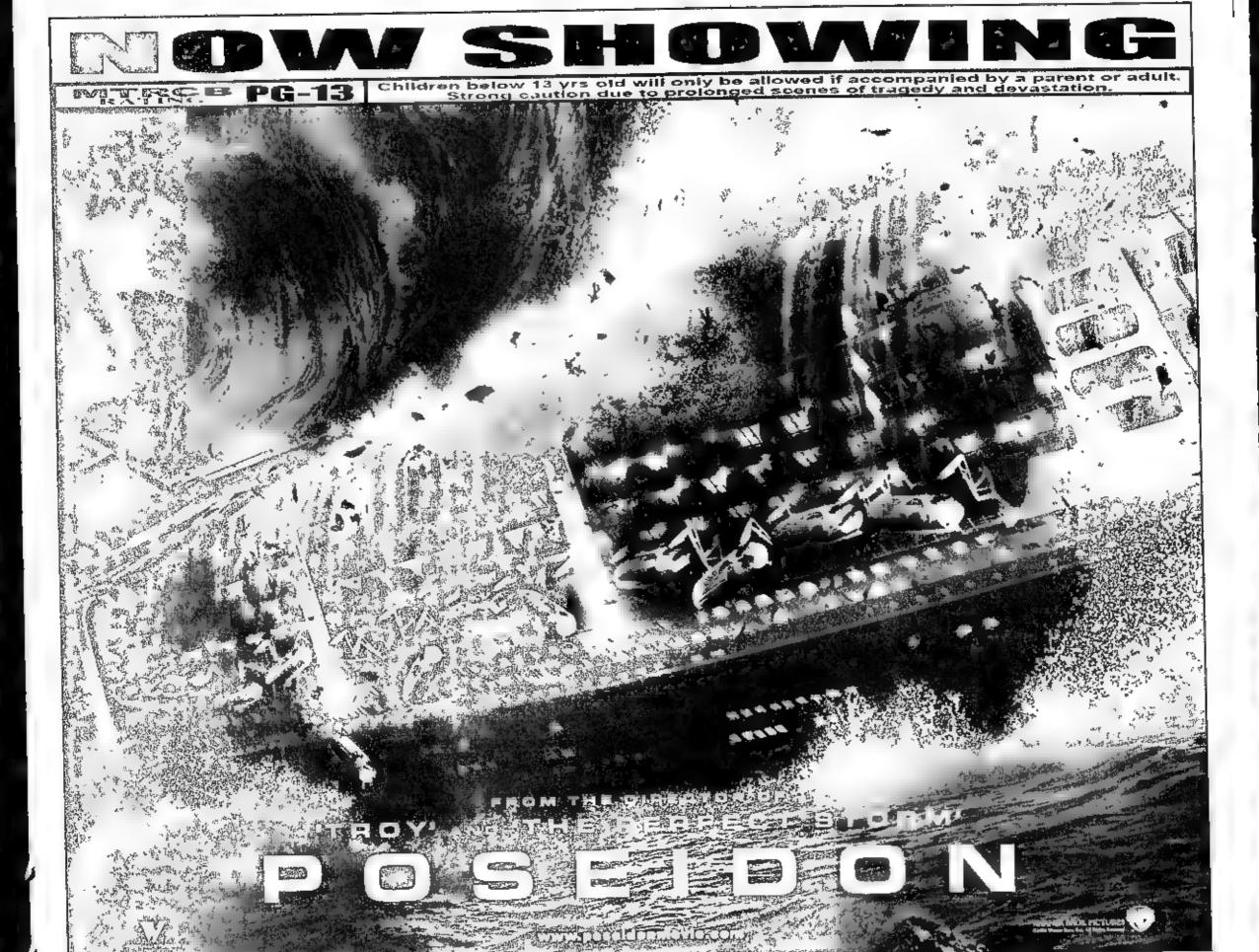
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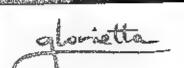
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ENTERTAINMENT

Triple Emmy winner on HBO

THE NEW YORK TIMES SAYS: "SOMETHING the Lord Made' is supposed to be an upufting tearierker about two men who defy racism to accomplish miracies. Portunately, it's much, much better than that."

Based on a true story in the 1940s, this award-winning movie chronicles the tale of a wealthy white doctor and a poor black laboratory assistant whose unlikely partnership

challenged tradition and defied racial boundaries to revolunonize the medical world and become pioneers of cardiac surgery.

Breakthroughs

Emmy and Golden Globe winner Alan Rickman (Professor Snape, "Harry Potter") is a wealthy chief surgeon, Dr. Alfred Blalock, who hires Vivien Thomas (Mos Def, "Monster's bright, Ball")—a young African-American man with big dreams of becoming a doctor-as a laboassistant. ratory Thomas' work and medical insights prove priceless to Blalock's practice, and it is soon apparent that Thomas has become more than just a helper. Together, they achieve phenomenai breakthroughs: developing a new process to treat trauma-saving

thousands of lives on the frontlines of World War II; and discovering groundbreaking,

miraculous procedure to perform open-heart surgery on "blue babies."

As their work recerves international recognition, it is Bla.ock who has promonons and accoraces raining down upon him. Thomas remains unnoticed, unrewarded and preposterously underpaid. Even Blalock, when speaking of their practice, cannot bring himself to publicly credit the assistant who helped him develop his most important procedures, and gave him instructions in the operating

For love

Even so, Thomas stays on for the love of the work, knowing that without a medical degree or the opportunity in the field primarily dominated by the white community, he can only achieve his through dreams Blalock.

"Something the Lord Made" is a remarkable tale of a significant chapter in the history medicine, boldly addressing issues of the treatment of colored people as equals and challenging the limitations of traditional

boundaries. The emotionallycharged performance by Rickman and Def, combined with an outstanding script -written by awardwinning duo, Peter Silverman श्चरी Robert Caswell-and the assured direction of the highly acclaimed Joseph Sar-("Warm Springs"), create the winning combination of this winner of three Emmy Awards in 2004 ("Outstand Ing Made for Television Movie," "Outstanding Cinematography," "Outstanding Single-Camera Picture Editing").

Made by HBO exclusively for HBO, it premieres at 10 tonight on HBO Signature.



MOS Def and Alan Rickman







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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS

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ENTERTAINMENT

What's it all about, Miriam?

IS THAT...? SURE LOOKS LIKE HER!

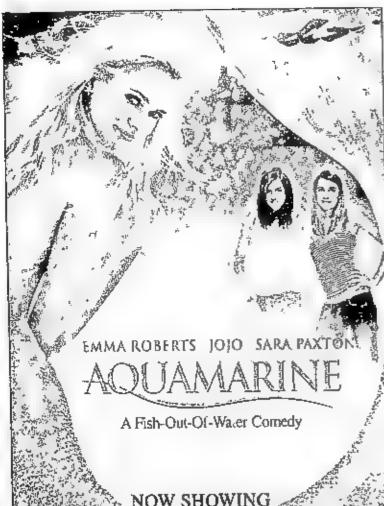
Miss Universe 1999 first runner-up Miriam for the world to see in an on-line exhibit on

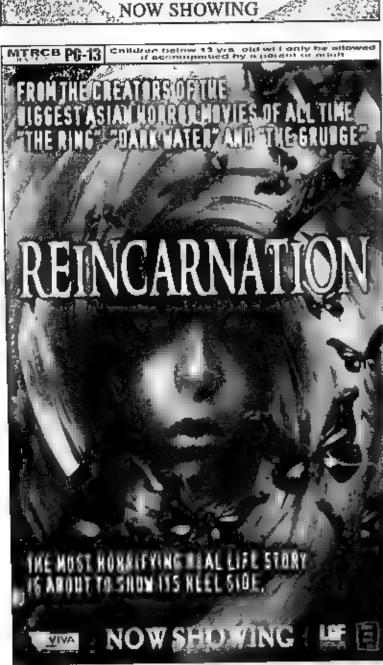
Reader Maria Paz de la Cruz (maria-Quíambao in the nucle? The photos, are there pazdelacruz@hotmail.com) called our attention to the exhibit.

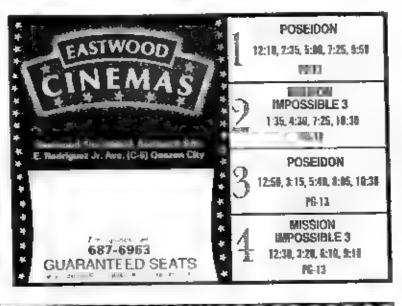
Dela Paz said the photos "are also in the giveaway calendars for Di Vino, a restaurant in Hong Kong owned by [Miriam's] husband Claudio Rondmelli."

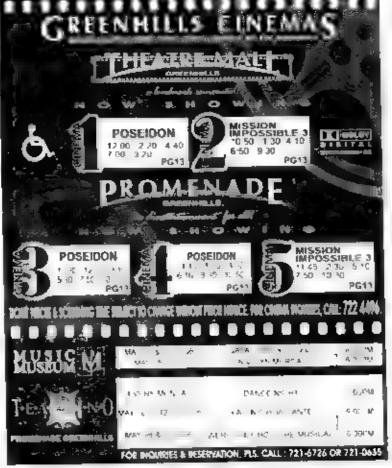














QUIAMBAO

RP 'Idol' fast-track screenings today

By Marinel R. Cruz

ONLY 100 CONTESTANTS WILL be picked from over thousands expected to audition for the reality-talent search program "Philippine Idol" starting this week, according to ABC 5.

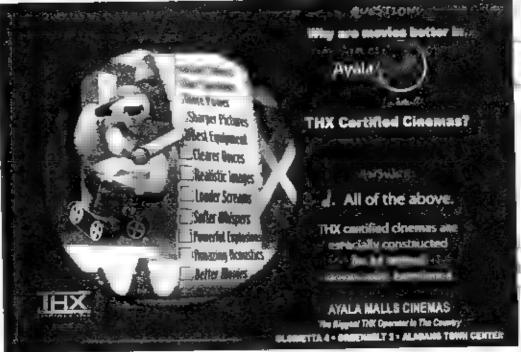
"We expect a big turn-out, so we want to trim down the num bers as early on as possible," Perci Intalan, network vice president for Creative and Entertainment Production, told INQUIRER.

Intaian said the number of contestants will be whittled down from 100 to 60, then 40, 24, and finally, 12.

Fast-track screenings will be held at sate,lite offices in SM Malls nationwide today starting at 10 a.m. Applicants will be asked to fill up necessary forms and perform two songs before a set of judges.

Successful applicants will each be given a pass for the audition proper. ABC 5 and its med.a partners Radio Mindanao Network and Man.la Broadcasting Corp will provide free transportation, food and lodg ing to those who will pass the provincial tryouts.

For details, interested parties may log on to www.phi.ippinei-





Zsazsa

non page 40

"Even though people keep asking [Dolphy and I when we're getting married], I don't want to feel pressured," she says. "We don't have plans. We believe there was a reason that it didn't push through the last time." Zsazsa and Dolphy almost tied the knot

"Right after I got my annulment [from denust Modesto Tatlongharil, Do.phy and 1 un-derwent personal turmoil," she recalls. "I cannot blurt out the reasons, I hope people leave Swell were I brother

Mare important

What's more important to her at this point, Zsazsa says, is their relationship

On the work front, the budding comedienne returns to drama. 'I play Rosamia, the Crying Diva," she says, on the new ABS-CBN soap opera "Bittiing Walang Ningming," which was based on Nerissa Cabrai's komiks novel

Zsazsa was tapped to play Lavinia in the 1980s movie version starring Sharon Cuneta. "I couldn't have done that," she muses, "I don't have the powers of Cherie Gil."

Speaking of powers, Carlo Vergara's Zsazsa Zaturnnah was another comic-book character offered to the singer-actress.

T first heard about that when it was Kris Aquino's project," Zsazsa says. Since Kris wasn't avaitable, "it was offered to Rufa Mae Quinto and then to me. Now I heard it's back to Rufa Mae "

When Regal Films producer Lily Monteverde offered the role to her, Zsazsa primed herself, physically and psychologically, to play the gay superherome. "I worked out. Circult training. I wanted to prove I could do the stunts, harness and action scenes "

Alas, it wasn't meant to be, "But if you look at the original comic books, Zsazsa Zaturnnah looks like me," she says. "Big hair, thick brows, pouting lips! She also sang 'Hiram'! There's no denying it."





Heavyweights fail to upstage trumpeter in new hit album

TRUMPETEER CHRIS BOTTT'S LATEST ALbum, "To Love Again," is a collection (of precrous old gems) so amazingly conceptualized and produced, that a romantic frame of mind is not even necessary to appreciate it. Each track stands on its own musical ment, no matter the externals that the listener may bring into the experience.

INQUIRER Entertainment told him so in this exclusive e-mail interview. We could almost see him blush

"That made my day," he said. "You're constantly trying to... you're always hoping people wil. like your record. When someone writes something INQUIRER like that—so concise and kinda everything you hope the record would

say, it makes me feel all the work [that went into it] was worthwhile. That Your collaboration with Paula Cole was exsounds chehê, but at certain points you're kinda bangin' your head against the wall and [wondering], 'Are people gonna hear thus record?' It's hard enough to get people to get actually placed and be present enough to listen. When somebody says this to me that, I feel very, very happy!"

We're the happier for that, actually Both is joined here by some heavyweights-Sting ("What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?", Michael Buble ("Let There Be Love"), Paul Buchanan ("Are You Lonesome Tonight?", Rosa Passos ("Here's That Ramy Day," Paula Cole ("My One and Only Love"), Gladys Knight ("Lover Man"), Renee Oistead ("Penmes From

Heaven"), Steven Tyler ("Smile") We doubt that all of them can come to Manila together for a show. But Chris Both will definately be here in the last quarter of the year for some performances.

"To Love Again" is a brilliant gathering of What were the guest artists' inputs? artists. How did this come about?

We had sort of a big success with the previous CD, "When I Fall In Love." A lot of musicians were anxious to join me in this project, to sing this kind of ... beautiful melancholy music. They all knew about it. They knew the arrangers involved.

Who did the "fishing" and convincing? All the artists on this CD, with the exception

of Rosa Passos—whom I do not know but I'm a fan of-I'd previously worked

with, and I'm friends with. I just called them up and just basically asked if they wanted to do it and they all said yes.

What an incredible voice! A lot of people know her through her pop songs; they don't know how great she is, singing in that style.

Who was first to jump in?

It might have been Steven Tyler... [then] Michael Buble, Paula Cole... then I was having dinner with Sting one evening and I told lum what the album was kind of shaping up to be. He said, "If you don't ask me to sing on this record, !'Il be insulted." So I asked.

What was it like working with Steven Tyler?

We're radically from different genres [but] he's so enthusiastic about music. He was so taken aback when I asked him to do that song in that particular setting with the London Orchestra. He was so into it, man! I knew he'd be good but I didn't know he'd be that good.

We spent a lot of time tailoring. When you listen to Sting sing "What Are You Domg The Rest Of Your Life?" his voice sounds enormous, gorgeous and wonderful. You want him to sound and feel luxurious inside the music. That's a harder thing to do than you might think. The input really was me flying to wherever they were and sitting with them and saying what key works and let's massage this thing till it is worked out just right, until it feels

Only a music artist who is really secure in his skills would have done this the way you did, allowing your guest artists to shine. How did you get to this point of confidence?

The more honest I am about the records I make, interestingly enough, the more successful they become. In "regular" pop, you have an instrumentalist playing all the way through behind the singer and the singer will be singing and hear the trumper going non-stop the whole time or saxophone or whatever instrument is of choice.

A long time ago, John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman did this record—they just had Johnny Hartman sing and then John Coltrane played solo. And then John Coltrane played solo and Johnny Hartman would surg. It was very simple, understated and wonderful. It was the kind of record that I wanted to put on and listen to at home. That ultimately is the thing. If you listen to Miles Davis' records, he probably plays only 20 or 30 percent of the time, 'cause you're listening to Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock and all the other players.

That's my point of view. It's my name on the front but I don't need to be heard through every single measure.

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Winston In Concert featuring Parokya Ni

Edgarand Tarcisius at Cocomangas Oyster Bar

Kim Flores at the La Salle Gym in Bacolod

Family Fun Game Show with Ruby Ro-

Ara Mina at Ratsky Morato

May 23

May 24

Join the Club at Robinson's

Blue Jean Junkie at Tav-

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Klownz Araneta

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Malate

driguez at Metropolis Star Alabang; 4 p.m.

Place Dasmariñas

May 22

Dave at Suburbia

May 20

in Boracay



RAFFY and Mon Tuffo

3 months with Osang

HARD-HITTING POLICE COLUMNIST RAMON TULFO HAS ADmitted he was "with" equally hard bitting former TV host (and sexy star) Rosanna "Osang" Roces. Osang was supposed to be a host on the new Tulfo show, "Isumbong Mol" (RPN 9) but the

"Magagalit kasi ang mga kaibigan ko," Mon said. He did not elaborate.

As for Raffy ...

MON'S bro, Raffy insists he did not break up the high-profile relationship of Brian Revilla and Mau. Taylor. He says he just met her at his birthday party last year, where she was invited as the featured performer. He didn't say she popped out of a cake. No!

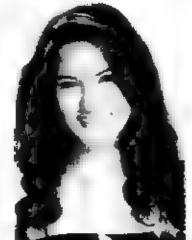
Brokeback Keanna

IS KEANNA Reeves the new Dagdag Bawas Queen? After getting her behind inflated, Keanna is seriously considering defiating her ample breasts.

"Too heavy," she quips, Backbreaking, we suspect.



REAL-LIFE singing sweethearts Rachelle Ann Go and Christian Bautista are being considered for hosts on the revival of "Penthouse Live" on Studio 23. Just a gentle reminder: Martin and Pops were the show's hosts in the 1980s.



KEANNA Reeves

Almost over him

IN NEW York, Nicole Kidman says her divorce from Tom Cruise was a "major shock"and, she still loves him.

The Associated Press quoted the June issue of Ladies' Home Journal (on newsstands next week) where Nicole says: "To me, he was just Tom, but to everybody else, he is huge. But he was lovely to me, And I loved hum. I still love hum."

Oops, she did it again

US pop princess Britney Spears is pregnant again, just eight months after giving buth to her first child, her publicist old Agence France Presse on Tuesday, Oops.





GARNER and Witherspoon with kids in New Orleans.

Star visitors

IN A GUTTED building with no interior walls, exposed pipes and no air conditioning to stave off the Louisiana heat, Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Garner and Cicely Tyson chatted with children who had lost their homes, then watched as they sang, danced and worked on art projects. AP reported that the movie stars were among a delegation of women touring devastated parts of New Orleans to meet with families and children trying to adjust to life after Hurricane Katrina.

Big Daddy

US comedian Adam Sandler, 39, has become a father for the first time after his wife Jackie gave birth at the weekend, his website announced on Monday, "Kid is healthyl! Wife is healthy!! He's still a moron, and that's all that counts!!!," screamed the actor and funnyman's website, without revealing the gender of the new arrival. AFP said People magazuie reported that it was a girl.



HALLE Berry

ADAM Sandler

Halle & Benicio

OSCAR-WINNING US stars Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro are to team up to star in a new drama to be made by Danish director Susanne Bier, Daily Variety said Monday.

Bituin, drama queen

"THIS IS MY FIRST MAJOR SOLO CON- Calesa Bar CERT," Bituin Escalante said, "In Bituin. . For The First Time" is the show's title.

Asked where she drew emotions from while performing, Bituin declared, unblinking: "I'm a drama queen. If I don't have a problem, I cre- 🏃 Her featured guest is Mon David, SHOW

grand prize winner of the recently conduded London International Jazz Competition for Vocalist. "I got lucky," Bitum said. "Mon David is now a Donna Cruz, Yayo Aguila-Martinez, Maricel

Her special two-night concert, produced by Thirdline, is set today and tomorrow, 9 p.m., at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Makari City.

Jaya 'Overjoyed'

Also today and tomorrow, Jaya stars in "Overloyed," at the Music Museum. The show marks her 10th year in show business.

It is Jaya's first major solo concert in four усать.

Ca.I (0917) 897-8357

Today

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Maiate

"Tipa... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Path at Ratsky Morato Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Tomorrow

Dave at Suburbia

Bituin Escalante in her first major concert at Onstage, Greenbelt 1

The CompanY at Hyatt Regency Manila's

Side A at Starmall La Piñas

"Tipa... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Winston In Concert featuring Bamboo and Sugarfree at Cocomangas Oyster Bar in Boracay

True Faith at Ratsky Malate Boy Abunda and Tin-Tin Bersola

host Surf Mother's Day Concert at the CCP Grounds with celebrity moms Morales and Dawn Zulueta

Kim Flores at South Koronadal Gym in Marbel City K and The Boxers at Ratsky

May 14

Mom's Day Out with Ruby Rodriguez at Metropolis Star Alabang; 4 p.m.

May 16 K and The Boxers at Zirkoh

Greenhills May 17

K and Boxers Klownz Araneta Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

May 18

The Company at Hard Rock Café

May 19

Troy Montero at Ratsky Malate



May 26 Silver: The Songs of Vehree Sarurno at the Ataneta Coliseum with Jay-R, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista, Juris Fernandez. and guests Rila Mae Salson, The

Company and Martin Nievera

ENTERTAINMENT

ON MAY 15, THE TV VERSION OF THE HIT honed and pushed in different aspects of

VIEWFINDER

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Z: Silent Hill 3; Posoidon . 4: Mission Impossible 3

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!

Every Pyrodays Controly Highle, Every Findings Link Accords: Blands at Calle Libre Bir Stammat Edua Myndays the Bends Every Threadeys Comedy Highes at Mark's KTY Metropole Star Aleberry 3 CAY SALE (May 19-21) Roby Rockspace (May 28) Sale A May 27) Microsofts Star Alexand Ruby Rockspace (May 1-9) Challes Bustale Jacophys Alexande (May 21) Stammal Edite

film, *Bituing Walang Ningning," will start telecasting on Channel 2. This early, industry people wonder if the seminal story about the complicated fan-star relationship will turn

out to be a thematic, emotional motherlode that can be mined for TV gold as well. A lot is riding on how viewers will take to the performances of Sarah Geronimo in

Angelica dela Cruz stepping

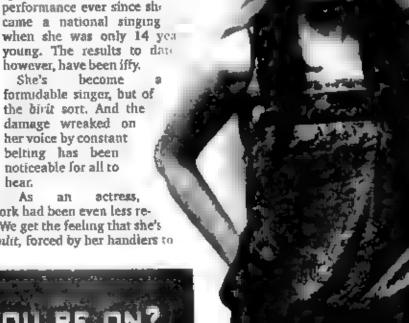
into Cherie Gil's star (and cool-bitch-villain) persona.

Sharon Cuneta's fan tole, and Nestor U. Torre

however, have been iffy. become She's

formidable singer, but of the birit sort. And the damage wreaked on her voice by constant belting has been noticeable for all to hear.

actress. Sarah's work had been even less rewarding. We get the feeling that she's Any indications? Well, Sarah has been hinog sa pulit, forced by her handlers to



SARAH Geronimo

REAL HORROR STORY "AN AMERICAN FAUNTING" TAKES A SOLID BOW IN 3RD PLACE

In a counter-programming strategy that worked, Freestyle Releasing s true horror story "An American Haunting", took the 3rd spot in the US Box office last weekend. The horror flam was in the fewest theaters and yet had the highest per-theater average -- after "M·I'3" -- of the session's top 12 films this weekend. Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek star in the film, which was helmed and written by Courtney Solomon



American Haunting is based on the true story of a real demonic possession that caused the death of a person. The incident was witnessed and documented by hundreds of people (among them was the 7th President of the United States Andrew Jackson) This true story represents one of the most famous instances of demonic possession in American history er

do too many things too soon. So her past performances have generally been earnest but two dimensional and lacking in thespic warmth and insight.

MAY 12, 2006

So, how Sarah will fare as an actress in her first major TV soap is still a questionable proposition, to be definitively resolved only when the series starts airing on May 15.

We hope that the TV soap's directors have ben able to effect a key change in Sarah's attitude and practice regarding thespic performance.

After all, the role of Dorina in "Bituing Walang Ningning" was a pop triumph for Sharon, who's a formidable and truly tough act to follow.

As for Angelica dela Cruz stepping into Cherie Gil's "deadly" stiletto shoes, that's an even more daunting challenge, since it was Cherse's bitchy character, Lavinia, who intoned the film's "signature" line ("You're nothing but a second-rate, trying-hard copycat"), among other bravura highlights. Happily, it looks like Angelica is better

prepared for the challenging task at hand, partly because she's more experienced, and also because she's an assertive performer in her own right In other words, she has what I takes to

play a stellar bitch-and, even better, her own kind of bitch, not a Cherie Gil imper-Additional stellar acts to watch out for are Zsa Zsa Padilla's portrayal of Sarah's

birth mother, and Ai Ai delas Alas as her adoptive mom. The Sarah, Angelica, Zsa Zsa and A. Ai quartet is a potentially powerhouse team, one that could propel Channe, 2's "B.tuing

Walang Ningning" to yummy meiodramatic heights. But the proof of the pudding s in the eating, and a lot can go wrong with puddings, especially on TV, so let's nope that Channel

2's new soap will survive its birthing pains and prove to be a success for everyone concerned

Anak TV screening

SUPPORTERS of child-sensitive television have banded together to stage a whole-day congress on May 13 at Pilgram Christian College honoring mothers of Cagayan de Oro City. Spearheaded by Southern. Broadcasting Network's Supermom's Club and the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television, an Anak TV screening will also be staged at Umted Christian Church

The first Talamdong inahan (Bukod-Tanging Ina) awards will also be bestowed on 10 Cagayan de Oro mothers Boots Anson Roa is keynote speaker, while Anak TV's Edgardo Roces and Mag Cruz Hatol will underscore the urgency of the pradent use of relevision

Livel.hood sessions by Spiash Corp., greeting card giveaways from Hallmark, snacks from Goldnocks, samplings from URC and Chocquick, candies from Columbia's, and premium prizes from PLDT, Panasonic and HBC await participants. Cebu Pacific and Negros Navigation are the events' official carriers, while the new Koresko hotel in Pueblo del Oro and Maxandria is the official residence

'Garfield 2'

COMEDY star Bill Murray voices the world's best-loved fat cat in "Garfield 2: A tale of Two Kirties." Murray plays Garfie.d with such zest and flourish that he comes off as the tabby cat personified, as he whisks gioriously sassy bombast throughout the fun-filled animated sequel









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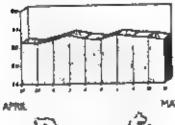
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RP rates poorly in competitiveness survey





GOLD: \$708.29-706.76 per ource Hong Kong, May 1 2006

Shares close 0.84% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0 84 percent higher on strong interest in milning stocks after metals rose to fresh records in US trade overnight, dealers said

A fresh wave of buying in blue chips also lifted the market as foreign funds continued to pour in, dealers said

The composite index closed up 21.30

Country ranks 49th in poll of 61 nations; weak governance cited

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES RANKED 49th out of the 61 countries rated in terms of global competitiveness in 2005, maintaining the same poor position it occupied in 2004.

The country rated weakly in the areas of education, good governance, investment climate, and health, according to the 2006 World Competitiveness Yearbook published by the Switzerlandbased Institute for Management Development (IMD)

The results of the World Competitiveness Survey was presented yesterday at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Makati City.

"Our assessment is that [the country's] problems have been recurring year in and year out," said Mis Denopol, project manager for the Global Competitiveness program.

Denopol noted that the areas where the country had rated poorly had not changed. She cited the problem of poor



President Macapagal-Arroyo views the state-of-the-art facilities of Saudi Arabian Oil Co. during her visit to Saudi Aramco's headquarters in Dahran, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Aramco is owned by the Saudi government. With her is the oil firm's president and chief executive officer Abdallah Jum'ah (second from left).

Mirant's RP subsidiary sells 50% stake in power plant operator

By Abigail L. Ho

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP HAS sold the 50 percent stake of its Philippine subsidiary in power firm Mirant Giobal Philippines Corp.

In a statement, First Metro Investment Corp. president Francisco Sebastian said the company arranged for the sale of Mi-

stake to a group of investors led by Global Business Holdings Inc.

Globa, Business Holdings, a member of the Metropank group, is Mirant's joint venture partner for Mirant Global.

Mirant's parent firm in Atlanta said that the sale of its 50 percent stake in Mirant Gioba, was "consistent with its strat-

The Mirant Global joint venture was formed in 2003 to help address the growing power demand of the Visayas

Mirant Global operates the 121megawatt (MW) Toledo facility in Cebu. The joint venture also expanded the ca-

rant Philippines Corp.'s Mirant Global egy of focusing on assets of substantial pacity of its Panay plant by 40 MW, as well as put up a 7.5-MW diesel-fired plant in Nabas, Axian and another 5-MW diesel facility in New Washington town, also in Aklan.

The plants represent less than 5 percent of Mirant's total capacity in the Philippines, which now stands at around

2,200 MW.

WHAT'S INSIDE



Gov't puts on roro roadshow to drum up finances



BUSINESS

Gov't puts on roro roadshow to drum up finances

DBP opens P12-B loan facility for development of roro ports

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT HAS stepped up efforts to complete the Road RoRo (roll-on, roll-off) Terminal Systems project by putting on a nationwide roadshow, together with private sector partners, to drum up investments for the project.

Already, the Development Bank of the Philippines has opened a P12-billion loan facility that can be accessed by local govemment units and private entities interested in investing in roro ports development.

The government road show will also complement the recent move of the National Development Co. to set up the Maritime Equity Corp. of the Philippines (MECP), whose mandate is to acquire roro vessels for lease to private-sector investors.

The transport and logistics committee of the Export Development Council (EDC), a government-private sector partnership tasked with recommending policies programs to boost exports, will conduct the roadshows starting next month.

Enrico Basilio, economics professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) who does research work related to the rore project, said the roadshow would mittally cover the provinces of

Quezon, Sungao and La Union. "The benefits of developing roro

ARL EDWARD 577 8455/ 374 3724

ports are obvious," Basilio said in a press briefing at the UA&P yesterday. It enhances regional trade, boosts tourism, and serves as a catalyst for area development."

Basilio said that, so far, there have been 15 roro connections established under the nationwide roro project. This means 34 more connections are needed to complete the 49 connections targeted under the project

What have been completed so far, he said, are the eastern and western loops of the project.

To complete the nationwide roro project, the government has to establish connections in the central loop, which would cover the provinces of Masbate, Cebu, Bohol, Carniguin and Misamis Ori ental, he added

The estimated cost of developing a roro port is P30 million, and a roro connection, which involves two ports, may cost P60 million, Basilio said. A roro shipping vessel is estimated to each cost P100

The economist said that lowearning local government units might not be able to afford the establishment of a roro port. For this reason, Basilio said, LGUs are encouraged to look for potential partners from the private sector.

While the local government can provide land area, private sector may infuse the funds needed to develop and operate the ro-

Palarong Pambansa and international trade

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

LAST MAY 7, FORMER ATHLETE and current Sen. Francisco Pangihnan told the crowd at the 2006 Palarong Pambansa opening in Naga City that sports is not nist about winning games, but more importantly, about developing character.

From this perspective, much from Palarong Pambansa may be applied to our international

Palarong Pambansa

Two days after the senator addressed the crowd, it was reported over COMMENTARY the radio that teams were accused of cheating for fielding over-aged participants in certain age categories. One such incident was reported by a coach who found out that a 17year-old was competing in the 13 year-old category. That player's team won, but at the expense of the higher value of character development.

If such unfair practices are not corrected, we may again suffer the international embarrassment we experienced when a team from the Philippines was caught violating the age limit rule several years ago. We unfairly won the world championship in Little League baseball.

International trade

A similar situation happened-and will likely happen agam unless we stop it-in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Obviously, developed nations are far more powerful than developing nations like

ours. We therefore applaud the schedules for the two provisions WTO when it inserted in its agreements the "Special and Differential Treatment (SND)* provision for developing nations.

But while SND is implemented in some areas, it is ignored in many others. Worse, commitments by developed countries to level the playing field remain vague and unfulfilled. An example is that developed countries have still not decreased their huge subsidies as an accompanying measure for developing

countries' rapid tariff reductions. SND most of the time is more rhetoric than reality.

correct this situation, the developing nations must band together in the current WTO negotiations. also known as the Doha, or de-

Power of unity

velopment.

For the WTO's Agreement of Agriculture (AOA), 33 developing nations formed an alliance in July 2003 to protect their important agricultural products from rapid liberalization.

At the sixth WTO ministerial meeting held in Hong Kong in December 2005, the delegates succeeded in inserting the provisions for "Special Products (SP) and Special Safeguard Measures (SSM)" for developing countries in the agreement reached during the WTO meeting. This is because the developing nations had the power of a united bloc, with Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban and Undersecretray Godfredo Serrano, assuming lead roles.

The specific modalities and

are now being negonated in Geneva. Rep. Erin Tañada is a major advocate of these provisions. Others are Jessica Reyes-Cantos, Rice Watch and Action Network (R1) head, Riza Bernabe of Centro Saka, and the group Alyansa Agrikultura (telefax number 024265626), which came out with a paper on the subject entitled, "Seizing the Opportunity: Special Products and Special Safeguards Mechanisms."

Their positions will serve as a good guide for our negotiators.

Market access

For WTO's Non-Agricultural Market Access Agreement (Nama), which includes industrial products and fisheries, the unity of developing nations to push for SND came too late.

The Nama 11 (composed of 11 developing nations) was organized only last December 2005), the very same month the WTO Ministerial Meeting was held. Thus, they did not succeed in modifying the Swiss formula for the agricultural sector (a mechanism for rapid tariff liberalization), which the G 33 successfully rejected.

The Alyansa Agrikultura, which represents the fishery sector in Nama, along with the four umbrella organizations of the Pair Trade Albance—the Federation of Philippine Industries, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Exporters' Foundation-defined the country's Nama position.

The groups are advocating an exemption of 10 percent of tariff lines from WTO maximum bound rates, a much higher co-

efficient than the 25 percent of the Swiss Formula that will slow down the liberalization pace. The groups also want a formula adjustment that will give us credit for the unilateral liberalization we undertook

Credit should go to DTI Secretary Peter Favila and Undersecretary Tomas Aquino for supporting this effort. Favila was the first Cabinet official to insututionalize private sector particpation in the WTO. Aquino is currently working on the Nama negotiations.

Conclusion

The Palarong Pambansa is the training ground for our young to strive for excellence while developing moral values. These mcludes integrity and fair play. We are confident that the Department of Education will correct any unfarmess during the Palaro so that our youth will be equipped with the right skills, discipline and values when they later assume feadership roles in fields such as international trade.

Our current DA and DTI officials should likewise continue to battle unfarmess in WTO. This way, SND and the development thrust in the Doha Round will become more reality than rhetoric. The private sector must now unite and fully support DA and DTI so that we will win in this important game.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretury of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

KARLEDWARD INTELLUM GOES BACK TO SCHOOL PLUS LOTS OF COOL SCHOOL STUFF!

Shares close 0.84% higher

points at 2,550.79 after trading between 2,529.49 and 2,553.99. Volume was 6.5 billion shares worth P3.2 billion (\$62.7 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 19.05 points to 1,576. Gainers led losers 92 to 27.

with 33 stocks unchanged. Among miners, Philex Mining Corp A, limited to Filipinos, gained

50 centavos to P5.30. Philex B, which foreign investors can buy, ad-

RP rates poorly ...

of foreign investors.

According to Dennis Legaspi, associate director of the AIM Policy Center, IMD's partner in the dissernination of the World Competitiveness Survey, some of the areas where the Philippines rated poorly included pupil-teacher ratio, where the country landed on the last spot at 61.

Other areas where the country ranked low were on expenditure on education (60th), expenditure on health (60th), expenditure on vanced 55 centavos to P5.30. Semi-research and development (60th), rara Mining Corp. gained 50 cen- country's credit rating (57th), AFP country image abroad (57th), risk

From page B1

infrastructure that placed the of political instability (60th), country outside the radar screen bribery and corruption (60th), brain drain (58th), and independence of public service from positical interference (59th)

The report also cited the unproved ranking of other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Legaspi said China moved up from 31st place in 2004 to 19th last year, while India improved from 39th place to 29th. Malaysia likewise improved, moving from 28th spot to 2310.

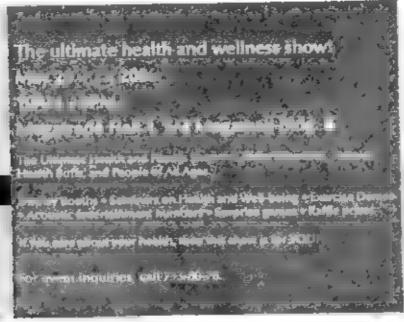
Neighboring Hong Kong and Singapore performed strongly, ranking second and thard, following the United States, which els (4th), working hours (5th).

ranked 1st in the scale last year.

But Legaspi said there were areas where the Philippines ranked strongly. These areas include cost of living index, where the country ranked the first. The Phil ppines also got the highest rank in terms of percentage of high technology exports as a percentage of manufactured goods

Other areas where the Philippines performed strongly were in real short term interest rate (2nd), consumption tax rate (6th), collected tax revenues as percentage of gross domestic product (7th), compensation lev-









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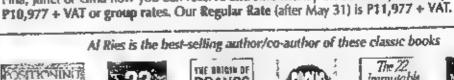
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IT IS ONLY MAY, BUT AT THE RATE A NUMBER of stock brokers have been snapping up luxury cars, you would think it is Christmas-time again.

According to the grapevine, Audi, whose authorized importer-distributor is stockbroker Robert Coyiuto Jr., has sold more than two dozen units since the onset of the bull market to an equal number of stock market brokers and players.

The Audis range from the entry-level A4s to the limo-like A8s like the daily driver-this we saw with our very own eyes-of international container terminal king Enrique Razon Jc

The good fortune has also spilled over to the real estate market. For instance, stock market player/developer Benjamin Bitanga, who not long ago sold his Dasmarifias Village house to importer Lucio Co to help pare down Asian currency crisis debts, has imported no less than a brand-new Aston Martin DB9 (list price, depending on specs; from \$155,000 to \$172,350) to toast his reviving fortunes.

Over at the red-hot mining sector, an indication that Benguet Corp. has gotten out of its decade-long debt rut is that its president/CEO, Benjamin Philip Romualdez, is now scooting around town in a black BMW 7

His gregarious brother, Equitable PCIBank vice chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, has in the meantime not lost hope that his fellow car aficionado, Manila Golf king maker Macario Te, will finally overcome personal undercurrents and join him in getting their hands on those Le Mans winner Audi diesels.

Te buying from Coyiuto? Now, that's really spreading good tidings and good cheer.

Metrobank sexed up

THE STAID Metrobank is finally spicing up its stock market standing by agreeing to release

more than 203 milhon more shares, raising the current outstanding shares of 1,63 billion shares by about 12.4 percent.

The improved uquidity, which It is hoped, would translate to improved share pricing, marks the ascension of the eldest son of talpan George Ty, the 40year-old Arthur, as president of largest country's bank.

Details of the secondary offering are still being worked out, but the Ty plan follows similar paths taken by the listed companies of taipans John Gokongwei and Henry Sy-give the market more shares. and the market rewards you with even greater market valuation to more than COCKTALES



Victor G. Agustin

compensate for the reduced family holding. Along with the assumption of the young Ty, Metrobank also announced the appointments of Joshua Naing and Carmelita Araneta as ex-

Warehouse Sa

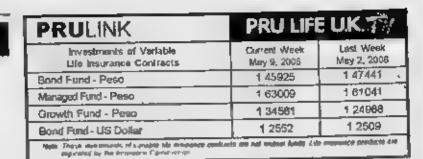
seven others as semor VPs.

Money-go-round

 FORMER Rep. Egmidio Tanjuatco Jr. may find it difficult to get himself appointed as a Comelec commissioner or to any other government position given that Bank of Commerce, controlled by his relative Antonio Cojuangeo Jr., is still suing him for an unspecified sum of money at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

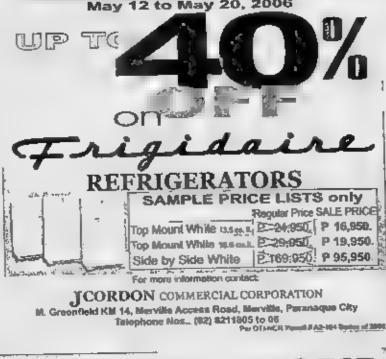
 The work- and deal-swamped SM heiress Teresita Sy is giving up her board ecutive vice president, and the promotion of seat at PLDT, with her independent directorship to be taken

up by Metrobank heir, Federal Land



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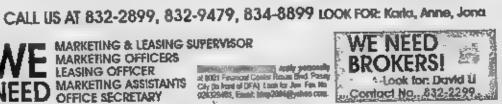


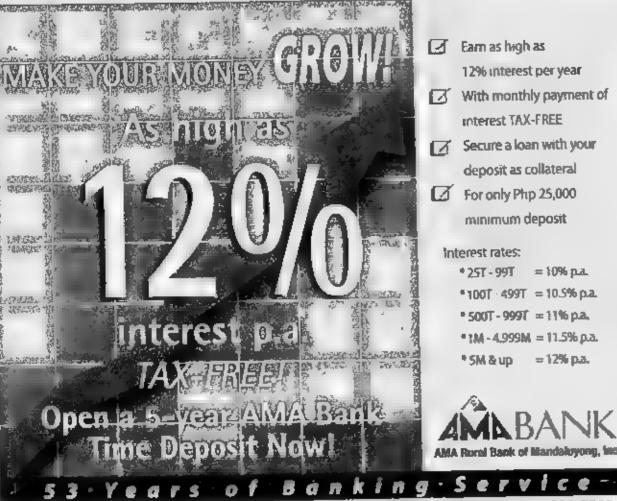
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Metrobank plans expansion

Bank builds capital, looks for possible acquisitions

By Doris C. Dumiao

COUNTRY'S BIGGEST LENDER Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co, is back in expansion mode, beefing up its core capital base and hunsing for potential acquisitions for the first time this decade.

Under the leadership of its new president, Taipan George Ty's son Arthur, the bank is now raising up to P9 billion through the issuance of new shares and the unloading of about P15 billion worth of bad assets.

After completing the sale of \$125 million worth of perpetual bonds eligible as hybrid tier 1 capital, Metrobank's board approved Wednesday night the issuance of up to 203.6 million in new shares from its authorized but unissued capital stock through a domestic and international equity placement.

Analysts said that based on current market prices, the new issuance could rause P8.5 to

Metrobank's status as the country's biggest bank is being challenged by smaller but more aggressive rivals such as Bank of the Philippine Islands, Banco de Oro Universal bank and Union Bank of the Philippines

There were talks in the banking sector that Metrobank had recently offered to buy International Exchange Bank, but this was demed by the new Metrobank president, I-bank's controlling shareholders recently agreed to sell out to UnionBank

Metrobank widened its lead over its peers exiber with the acquisition of Solid Banking Corp. in 2000 and its consolidation with Metrobank subsidiary Global Business Bank in 2002.

Bad assets inherited from previous acquisitions prompted Metrobank to slow down in previous years, but bank officials said the 'digestion period' was over and the bank was ready to look for more expansion opportunities

During the stockholders meeting, Metrobank amended its charter to scrap the preemprive rights of existing shareholders during capital-raising activities, aiming to increase the bank's free float and encourage the entry of more investors.

in a statement yesterday, Metrobank said that in line with the planned capital call, "certain shareholders may decide to sell secondary shares as part of the offering."

Metrobank said it would use the net proceeds from the issue to further strengthen its capital adequacy ratio in response to recent adjustments following its adoption of International Accounting Standards and in anticipation of Basel II requirements which will be effective in 2007



PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president Napoleon Nazareno and chair Menuel Pangilinan address a press conference at the company's headquarters in Manife. An appreciating local currency resulted in PLDT posting a 7-percent drop in Q1 profit to P8.58 billion.

SMIC posts P2.9B in profit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS CORP, THE FLAGSHIP company of taipan Henry Sy, said it had registered a net income of P2.9 billion from January to March this year due to one-time gains from the sale of global shares

The amount, it said, was 126 percent higher than the P1.3 billion posted in April to June last year, the first quarter of its fiscal year 2006 ending March. The company, however, has shifted to the regular calendar year starting this year.

Including minority interests and meome generated from subsidiaries, total net income stood at P3.77 billion or 83 percent higher than last year's P2.06 billion, SMIC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange SMIC booked an extraordinary income of

P1.3 billion from the sale of global depository receipts representing Banco de Oro shares.

Income without the one-time gain would have stood at P1.6 billion in the first quarter, up 23 percent from P1.3 billion in the same period last year.

Strong sales from SMIC's retail business

pushed consolidated revenue up 10.8 percent to P12.3 billion in the first quarter of 2006 from the previous year's P11 billion.

The retail group, with its network of 26 SM Department Stores, accounted for 67 percent

Retail sales grew 7.7 percent to P8.2 billion in 2006 from the P7.6 billion last year due to the opening of two new department stores in SM City San Lazaro and SM Sucar Annex in the second half of 2005 and an additional department store in SM City Sta. Rosa in the first

The strong performance of other subsidiaries also contributed significantly to SMIC's net income, Rental revenue from its shopping mail subsidiary, SM Prime Holdings, Inc., accounted for 19 percent of the total. While those from SM Prime's 23 shopping malls rose 15 percent to P 2.4 billion in the first three months of the year from last year's P2 billion. The company's healthy balance sheet and strong financial performance ailowed it to declare cash dividend of 47 percent or P4.70 per share.

PHC trading

suspension lifted

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

yesterday lifted the trading suspension

The decision was made after the Secun-

ties and Exchange Commission approved

the company's amended articles of incor-

poration that allowed the extension of its

Trading of PHC shares was suspended

Wednesday by the exchange pending the

approval of the extension of the compa-

ny's corporate life. Elisabeth L. Sanches

corporate life by another 50 years.

on Philcomsat Holdings Corp. shares.

SMDC raises stake in Belle

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP, THE RESIDENTIAL developer of the SM Group, has increased its stake in Belle Corp. to 8.78 percent, the company said in a disclosure to the Phiappine Stock Exchange (PSE)

SMDC said it had acquired additional 8.37 million shares of Belle, bringing its total holdings in the Tagaytay leisure homes developer to 557.89 million

Yesterday, Belle closed at P1.42 apiece SMDC's move to increase its stake coincides with Belle's robust performance in the

Belle yesterday said its consolidated net iscome in the first quarter surged 163 percent to P69.7 milhon, an increase of P43.2 milhon from P26.5 million in the first quarter of 2005

Net revenues from operating sources grew 73 percent to P165.5 million, from P95.7 milhon in the same quarter in 2005, mainly due to higher revenues from real estate sales.

The company completed the first three phases (The Sanctuary, The Ridge and The Meadows) of its farm lots project, Plantation Hills at the Greenlands in Tagaytay in 2005. The two newest phases of Plantation Hills-The Heights and The Ranch-are 76 percent and 34 percent completed, as of March 31.

Ginebra Q1 earnings lower

GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL INC., THE HARD bquor arm of San Miguel Corp., reported weaker first quarter net earnings of P228 million, 38 percent lower than the P367.9 milbon booked in the same quarter last year.

GSMJ chair Eduardo Cojuangeo said GSMI had to absorb the additional cost arising from the higher expanded value added tax (VAT) rate and the 60-percent hike in the price of molasses, a basic raw material. These pared down operating income to P445 million in during the quarter

"We are confident that our business will pick up in the coming months, especially as the gap between current and year-ago con-

ported a net income of P650 million in the first

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation

AEV's power group posted the largest income

In spite of weak volume growth, the power

distribution sector posted a 10 percent in-

crease in income during the period. The pow-

contribution of P456 million. This was, howev-

quarter, up 5 percent from year-ago level.

and amortization (Ebitda) hit P1.3 billion.

er, 10 percent lower than last year's level.

sumption of gin has substantially narrowed down," Cojuangeo said

To fuel future growth, GSMl with its joint venture partner, C.N.T Wine and Liquor Company Ltd. in Thailand, will start operating a P2billion distillery and bottling plant by June next year. This will allow GSMI to produce "lao khao," a popular Thai liquor and other spirits. GSMI owns 40 percent in CNT Wine and

Liquor Co. Ltd. Cojuangeo said 2005 was a "watershed

year," marked by increased costs and soft consumer demand. GSMI said last year its net income sank to P368 million, from P1.72 billion Elizabeth L. Sanches

Passenger and cargo mover About iz Transport

Group (ATS) reported a net loss of P192.4 mil-

lion in the first quarter, bigger than last year's

P167.2 million, due to weak sales brought

about by its sluggish international charter busi-

it said consolidated revenue in the first

three months reached 92.5 billion, 12 percent

lower than year-ago. Elizabeth L. Sanches

ness and low passenger and cargo volumes.

bution from the hydro group.

'Hot money' inflow hit \$101M in April

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL EQU ties and debt papers, tagged as "hot mone; posted a net inflow of \$101.2 million in Apr less than half the \$279.8 million in the san period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pili mas reported yesterday.

For the first four months of the year, the was a ner foreign portfolio inflow of \$590. million, much smaller than the \$1.72 billion recorded a year ago.

The April inflow was 10 percent high than the \$91.9 million posted in March.

"This development indicates positive vestor sentiment following the strong perfe mance of mining shares and the favorable : ports on the first quarter budget deficit, overseas Filipino workers remittances and exports in February and the March inflation rate," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Despite the upbeat sentiment on local stocks, gross investments in government securities were lower due to the narrowing differentials between domestic and foreign interest rates as well as the smaller volume of new government issuances given lower-thanexpected budget deficits. Doris C. Dumlao

er generation concern's contribution, howey- and Damm Lucas Banco de Oro nets ₱706.5M

Aboitiz Equity profit hits P650M

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES (AEV) HAS RE- er, dropped by 33 percent due to lower contri-

a 25-percent increase in its first quarter profit to P706.5 million from year-ago level

BDO saw a 12-percent increase in net interest income to P1.8 billion over a year ago, while fee-based earnings jumped by 51 percent to P1.2 billion.

The increase in net interest income was attributed to a 16-percent expansion in balance sheet. Non-interest income was bolstered by

BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK REPORTED fees derived from trust, loan underwriting, cash management and insurance services. Operating expenses amounted to P2 bil-

llon, up by 44 percent from last year. The bank set aside P181.4 mullion for impairment losses on loans, investments and other assets. The nosperforming loan ratio of 4.4 percent was among the best in the industry while loan coverage ratio stoorl at 102 percent of NPLs.

Total resources as of the first quarter stood Doris C. Dumiao higher securities trading and strong service at P237.5 billion.

Cocktales

president Alfred Ty.

Heard through the grapevine

THE JAGUAR-LAND Rover showroom in Ortigas has shut down after the landlord increased rent this year by a hefty 12 percent The Buendia dealership showroom-one is enough given the size and specialty of the local market--remains open.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pididsl.net or cock-(ales pdi@yahoo.com)

STOCKS	PINA	RGH I	C .(ME	ABTTIME
Anistrict Dev. Bank and Banco de Oro Sink Bank Bank of the Phill Islands Chine Banking Corp. Citystate Savings Bank A Equation PC Bank A Equation PC Bank inclined at one for the Bank who had not the Park Bank Worth Bank Bank Bank Bank Bank Bank Bank Bank	6.5 37.5 68 900 20.25 2.45 72 40 44.5 37.5 39 17.5 56 Other Finance	0 47 72 5 44 5 37 5 39 5 18 5 50 ML METITY	68 890 0.25 0.45 71 40 43.5 37.5 39.5 39.7 17.5 49.7 10.48 0.76	7 2 17 5 700 900 1 25 1 46 1 37 5 1 39 5 1 1 9 1 9	202 000 26 *00 6.372 100 1 200 5.320 100 6 400 62 500 416 00 15 400 15 400 27 300 27 300 25 500
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CURRENCIES

ABS-CBN Histon, Corp (Pdr)

---- PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER ----

The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

wish to announce the entrance into eternal life of

Sr. Francis Ann Mulligan, M.M.

on May 3, 2006 at the age of 90

at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York.

She had been a Maryknoll Sister for 68 years. She was assigned to the Philippines in 1961 serving in Davao, SOS Children's Village in Lipa City, and a pastoral worker in Santiago, Isabela.



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER **OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

@ Copy of Death Certificate

O Any identification document (I D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank

payments

Our Bearly Bedoved

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 10, 2006 at the age 85.

His loving wife Patrocinio (Sening); children Linda & Nolly, Francis, Annie & Ben, sisters Carmen & Norberta, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Ave., Q. C.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 14, 2006 at Loyola Memoriai Park, Marikina

CESAR ARIZABAL FERAREN

মানুক্রের করা ব্রেক্টের্ট্রের স্থানির বিশ্বরুদ্ধের বিশ্বরুদ্ধের বিশ্বরুদ্ধির বিশ্বরুদ্ধির বিশ্বরুদ্ধির বিশ্বরুদ

Vigan, Ilocos Sur Former Dep-Ed Administrative Officer, Manila Trainer - Adamson University Junior Basketball Team Basketball Referee

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 9, 2006 at the age of 80.

His loving wife CONSOLACION PALAFOX, son JULIUS & daughter-in-law TINA, sisters LUCILA & VICENTE (†), ROSARIO & NICK, MA. VICTORIA & PIO (†), brothers-in-law; HONORATO & FLORA, BENJAMIN & VIRGINIA, sisters-in-law; NENITA & MACARIO and MOBINA, meces and nephews, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Interment will be on Sunday, May 14, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the Morning Mass at 9:00 o'clock in Adington Memorial Chapels.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROSARIO 'SISTER CHARING' MONASTERIA

peacefully joined our Lord and her husband Ramon Z. Susara on May 10, 2006 at the age of 88.

Her children and spouses, Iggy (†) & Espee, Evelyn & Carlo, Luis & Nora (†), Marita & Ben, Mario & Baby, Mila & Oscar, Bobby & Lina, Sammy & Bess, Boy & Perla, Bong & Leony, and Benjie; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Gregorio Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Beloved Mother REGINA "Gening" R. LOPEZ

September 7, 1915 - May 6, 2006

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 6, 2006 at the age of 90.

Her loving husband Salvador "Bading" Lopez (†), chikiren Renato, Frankie (†), Tessie "A", Neneng, Cynthin, Bhole, Onging, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her

Her remains lie in Ambassador Chapel at St. Peter Memorial Chapel Inc., 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezos City.

Interment will be held on Sounday, 13th of May 2006 at Platidel Catholic Cemetery after & the 7:00 auts. Mass.

Our Beloved

VIRGINIA ASESOR VDA. DE ARAÑO

of San Juan Crisostomo, Anilao, Roilo

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 9, 2006 at the age of 98.

Her children Evelyn, Senene, Melinda and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repuse of her soul.

Her remains he in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Aranela Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 1 00 p.m. Mass at the grave with her grandson Rev. Fr. Alejo Simon Araño III as the officiating priest.

Our Beloved Mama and Lola Silvia Araneta vda de Torres

January 11, 1912 - May 11, 2006

peacefully joined our Lord on May 11, 2006 at the age of 94

Her children, in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives and friends to join them. in praying for her eternal happiness.

Arnaldo and Ma. Cecilla Javaiona and Children aphine: Suzelie and John De Sello, Camille, Nicola, Julius-John, Erren and Natis, Joan, Silve Joboy, April Joly, John and Pamele, Johnselle, Jela, Andrew and Tess Andrea. Christens and Ray Bobusia, Miguel, Gabby, Jude and Anabella, MJ, Carls

A. Raul Torres Jr and Ma. Catalina (+) and Children

Johnny and Mercy Torres and Children Michele and Dave Jones Ty Justin, JP, Teryn JR, Moles

Ignacio and Ma. Slivia Javeliana and Children Jay and Milm, Gathy, Ger and Arman, My. Loy and Jarg, Bus, Josef, Cavet, Mel and

Francisco (+) and Victoria Torres and Son Francisco Jr

Har remains lie in state at Alisbo Memoria, in Mandalagan. Bacolod City. Interment will be on May 14, 2006, Sunday. at Bacolod Sacred Heart Memorial Park Details for the Mass, to be announced later

We design obituaries for free.

CLASSIFIEDS

Please be informed that MR. CARLITO C GALITA whose picture appears below has ceased to be connected in any capacity with AIRBORNE SECURITY SERVICE, INC. effective November 17, 2005.



Any transactions entered into with this person from and after the date mentioned above shall not be honored and shall not be for the responsibility of

AIRBORNE SECURITY SERVICE, INC. Andrea Bidg. 1, 1009 G.M. Yolentino St., Sampaloc, Manife Tel. No., (02) 7357554/55/59; Fax No., (02) 7357557 POI May 8, 10 & 12, 2006)



IATSS (International

stack, non-profit

Association of Traffic and

organization which focuses

its efforts on traffic safety

recently held the oath-

taking ceremony of its

the University of the

newly elected officers at

Safety Sciences), a non-

CLASSIFIEDS More Classifieds on pages A17, A22 & B2-2

IATSS FORUM ALUMNI PHILIPPINES' NEWLY

ELECTED OFFICERS INDUCTED



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

accounts and certificate of time deposits of the later DIVINA 8. PERALTA was adjudicated three Extra-Judicies Settlement by her surviving hears and shall be released thru S.P.A. Jesus B. Puralte as per Doc No. 365, Page 77 Book IV, Senes of 2006, of Alottary Public Henry S. Bandres. (PDF May 12 19 à 26, 2005)

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to the grade of their to the management

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PROFESCIONAL A CHESTOLE PAWN*BUY*SELL **JEWELRY** WATCHES **BEST APPRAISAL**

Secondo Gionetta 1 Agenda de Makali Fig. 7 . 7

COMPANIES PARE RESIDENCES STUDIO TWRI 38 SOM 3.1 M NEG. RUSH FOR BALE Contact MACKY 09184480470 Also arout ONE ADRIATICO, FIFTH AVB., MCKINLEY PLC. STU 1,2 BRIM

OUSE 'N LOT 4 BALE WORTH 1.2 MILLION

100 BOLLARE MATER - LANS Mayoungs. Pests w/ business permit 2 door clean tale TOTAL TO AN ADMINISTRAL Roper Recor

REPUBLIC OF 1-16 PHILIPPINES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED

SEC-CED ORDER No. 049

Registration of Sucurities under the Securities Regulation Code

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereby which were filed for and on behalf of PRUDENTIALISE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC. the Commission in as meeting of April 6, 2006, resolved to nondot efficience the same for the registration of the company is "the founded Netton (300,000 000 took) common stands with a pril volve of P. (30 dects, represerving its leaded increase in its euthorized.

A Certificate of Pearsil to Other Securities for Sale mulhostating the sale of Sald securities is listened with this Order

Let a copy of this DRDER to published at the expense of corporation once a week for two (2) consequence weeks in two are corporation into a week no two (at consecutive weeks in two (2) nowspapers of general circulation in the Phitippinish worth lier [10] days freel dain of this ORDER. The indipict company is hereby structed to juminh the Commission with a copy of the missions of publication of this ORDER.

April 12, 2006. EDSA, Greenhille, City of Mondalayong (Sgr.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN

We have been receiving information that there are people who are using AIRBORNE SECURITY SERVICE, INC. for the purpose of maligning its dignity and reputation to gain advantage for personal interest.

Please beware of these people.

Should you come across the identity of these people, please report to our office immediately AIRBORNE SECURITY SERVICE, INC. Andrea State, 1, 1605 G.M. Toinetino St., Sempalos, Mantin Tel. No.: (02) 735755455/58; Fax No.: (02) 7357557 (PDI May N, 10 S 12, 2004)

ABOITIZ ONE, INC.

GEN, AVIATION, DOMESTIC AIRPORT

PASAY CITY NOTICE OF MISSING O.R.

This is to inform the general public, particularly Aboitiz One customers, that the following Official Receipts of Aboiliz One, Inc. are missing and declared lost.

O.R. No.

120058 0073327 0073342 0081786 to 0081791

Accordingly, Aboitiz One, Inc., will not honor transactions for which the above enumerated Official Receipts were

PDI - May 12, 2006



WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER Jaro, Hollo City, Philippines Tel. No. 3202431 local 101

Fax No. (033) 3202623 Email address: umchd@info.com.ph PHIC Accredited Health Core Provider

ERRATUM

WVSUMC regrets to announce that it will rescind and cancel its notice of "Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid" published on April 29, 2006 and May 6, 2006 at the Philippine Daily Inquirer in view of the errors contained in said notice.

(Sgd.) ANNA VICTORIA J. SOMBONG, M.D. BAC-Chairman WVSUMC

(PD1-May 12, 2004)

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS PAWISHOP ALTH COMPLEX, CALVARID, MECY.

BULACAN ALL UNAEDEEMED PLEDGES OF NOV 2005 WILL BE AUCTIONED ON MAY 24, 10:00 AJA, LANGZA & SONS AUCTIONEER

MARILAO-FILIPINAS PREMISHOP

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Philippines campus. Shown in photo are (from left)

09192917021

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Editor Arres Espinosa

World Telecommunication Day observed May 17

Annan and ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi recently informed ITU member states, including the Philippines, that May 17 will be observed this year, as it has been marked every year throughout the world since the early '60s, as World Telecommunication Day. This event commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the specialized arm for telecommunications of the United Nations, 141 years ago

Both Annan and Utsumi emphasized the fact that World Telecommunication Day 2006 carries added significance this year According to the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) this day starting this year will be referred to as the "World information Society Day". This year's theme for World Telecommunication Day is: "Promoring Global Cybersecurity" to highlight the

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENeral Kofi serious challenges the world now faces in ensuring the safety and security of critical networked information and communications in-

The FFU is now coordinating with the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), the telecommunications administration for the Philippines, through CICT Commissioner Damian Domingo "Dondi" O. Mapa. Newly appointed CICT Chair Ramon P Sales is expected to deliver the keynote address to open the two-day Conference-Workshop now being planned on May 17 and 18 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. Also expected to speak is the Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Ronald Olivar Solis.

One of the special features of this year's celebration of World Telecommunication Day is the publication of a Special Supplement in the



tion, The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

This issue will focus on the progress

achieved so far by our country in the

field of information and communica-

tions technologies (ICT) and record

the events that will take place during

2006 World Telecommunications Day





the Philippine Daily Inquirer will carry

a Special Supplement on the World

Telecommunication Day The publica-

tions, media and events group of the



RONALD Olivar Solia



DAMIAN Domingo O

that will be held during the 2006 World Telecommunication Day with

For more information about the 2006 World Telecommunication Day, telecommunications consulting firm call the publications, media and CD Castro Consultancy inc (CDCCI) is events group of CDCCi at 889-9110 coordinating events and programs or e-mail edeastro@info.com.ph.



SALEM INAUGURATES RENOVATED STORE

On March 21, Salem Oceanic Industries Corp. manufacturer of 'Harl Ng Tibay' Mattress and Foam, inaugurated its newly renovated stora, now known as Life So Easy located along 1 Van Burren Street Pio Del Pliar Makati (along South Super Highway). The store was initially poened in 2000 and was formerly known as Salem House. 15howcased both local and imported goods for all market segments. It was then temporarily closed for renovation to improve the showroom. Shown at the ribbon-cutting ceremony is its president and CEO Benjamin S. Tiu with wife vice president Myrna L. Tiu, with special guest Bro. Roland Esquerra, district minister, giesia Ni Cristo. The company continues to uphoid the tradition of providing all Filipino families the highest quality yet affordable products only Salem Oceanic Industries can offer For more information, call

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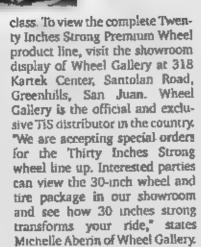
TiS launches 30-in tire in NY Auto Show

TWENTY INCHES strong (TiS) officials were on hand to personally unveil the world's first and only prodiction 30-inch wheel and hre combo at the glitzy 23rd New York International Motorshow April

TIS wheels, the trendsetter in aftermarket custom

wheels, is set to fire up the industry with the introduction of a finely crafted and distinctive 8spoke, 3-piece wheel which is the first in the company's new Thuty Inches Strong line. As with all TIS brand wheels, these monstrous thirties feature Phar Lip technology, which allows for the deepest lip wheels on the road today. The first set of these monumental wheels and tires have been sold to MTV's Bam Margera from Viva La Bam-valued at just under

\$150,0001 TIS is the most significant brand in the luxury automotive wheel market. Exceptional designs, superior style, and a wide range of sizes (starting at 20 inches) distinguish the TIS Luxury Wheel Collection into its own



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Letrozole effective as initial treatment after surgery in early breast cancer

nation's daily with the biggest circula- in the Philippines. The May 17 issue of

the efficacy of two drugs for breast cancer showed that letrozole is more effective as an minal therapy after surgery in postmenopausal women with early breast cancer compared with tamoxifen.

The results of Breast International Group 1 98 (BIG 1-98) published in The New England Journal of Medicine showed that letrozole (Fernara) reduced the risk of breast cancer returning by an additional 19 percent over the reduction offered by tamoxifen. Furthermore, patients taking letrozole showed a 27percent reduction in the risk of the cancer spreading to distant parts of the body.

"One of the greatest fears confronted by women who have been treated for early breast cancer is that their cancer will come back," says Dr. Matthew Ellis, section head of

A STUDY WHICH WAS DONE TO COMPARE the Medical Oncology Division in the Department of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. "With letrozole we now have an option that can help address that fear early on, even in patients who we know face the greatest risk of recurrence."

In addition, BIG 1-98 showed that women with metastatic breast cancer who were given letrozole as first-line treatment had a significantly higher response rate, longer time for disease progression and a significant improvement in one to two-year survival rates compared to others who were given a differ-

Due to the favorable results of the BIG 1-98 study, the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of letrozole as adjuvant treatment immediately after surgery among post-menopausal women with hormone-sea-

sitive early breast cancer. In the Philippines, the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration has also approved the use of setrozole for the same indication.

According to Dr. Diane Young, vice pressdent and global head of Clinical Development at Novartis Oncology, letrozole has consistently demonstrated superiority over tamoxifen as first-line therapy in women with metastatic breast cancer as well as in postmenopausal women with hormone-sensitive early breast cancer.

"In addition, lettozole provides a notable benefit to patients who are especially high risk of having their breast cancer return," she said.

Patients are informed that letrozole, along with all drugs for breast cancer, is a prescription drug and should only be taken upon doc-



DANSART NOTES TO HEAVEN

The Angels Theatre Ensemble (ATE) of Dansart Angels Academy will present the four Hollywood box oftice hits of theater and movie films. 'Cats', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Grease' and 'Miss Satgon' at SM City Dasmariñas, Cavite on May 13 at 4 p.m. Under the supervision and the diligent support of its directors/advisers, Donabel L. Cabeia and Michael Array F Cao, the young tatented members of ATE performed the said play with justice Consequently, the group received good reviews after staging these

for the first time during the DAA loundation week last February, ATE also performed original plays: Tariod Lupa' (of Teatro Pilipino) and 'Sa Piting Ni Bathala' Dansart Angels Academy situated at Rome Street, Summerwind Village 4, Dasmariñas, Cavite was founded by Mr and Ms Danito Sarte Mangien C. Fajardo, the principal, is from UP This school is making history for it is among the planeer if not the first to grant 35 scholarships in the field of Theatre Arts, from Grades 4 to High School.

Target HDL-C levels for Asians set MERCK INC SPONSORED A is therefore seen as an important

raising HDL cholesterol in reduc- other cardiovascular diseases. ing cardiovascular disease risk during the recent joint annual el suggests that meconnic acid, a convention of the Philippine medicine for the treatment of low ety of Hypertension

Dr. Rody Sy, cardiologist and associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, presented the recommendations of the Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, which suggests that the HDL-C target in Asian countries should be at least 40

The panel likewise recommends that treatment of low HDL-C should also be considered within the context of global cardiovascular risk management. Low HDL-C has been established as an independent risk factor that can predict the occurrence of future coronary heart disease (CHD). Treatment of low HDL-C

symposium on the importance of step in the prevention of CHD and The Pan-Asian Consensus Pan-

Lipid Society and Philippine Soci- HDL-C, "may prove to be a useful therapeutic intervention, monotherapy or in combination with a statin, in Asian patients with or at risk of CHD, including those with type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome."

The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, composed of specialists from 10 countries including the Philippines, was convened to give recommendations on the target level of HDL-C for the Asian population, as well as recommended treatment and management of low HDL-C. Sy, together with Dr. Annette Borromeo from the Philippine Heart Center and Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco from The Medical City, were the country's representatives to the panel.

Spies up your summer with 'Totally Spies'

SAM, ALEX AND CLOVER OF THE HIT French animated series "Totally Spies" are up for an exciting summer getaway-where else but in the beautiful islands of the Philippines! While it's a time for leisure, the teen Spies had to carry out at least two missions assigned by WOOHP Head Jerry before they can get a tan at the white beaches of Boracay;

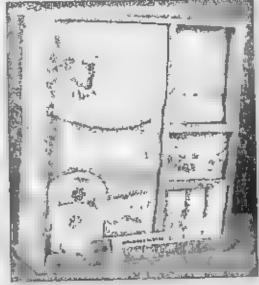
Mission 1: Catch the Spies as they're tasked to give away their totally cool gadgets this summer through the country's leading fast food chain Jollibee, Get a hold of your very own sleek Sticker Blower, Lipstick Stamper, and Crayon Organizer when you avail yourself of your favorite Jollibee Kids Meal. Each cool gadget comes with a handy CD case comprising the Chic Art Set. Promo is ongoing until May 17. Hurry and collect all now!

Mission 2: Aside from perking up every little kid's summer adventures, the Spies are also designated to prep up for the next school year through allocation of Totally Spies-y school stuff at all leading bookstores and department stores nationwide. While Totally Spies bags, shoes, clothes and other trendy merchandise are already available in the market, new Totally Spies items awalt moms and kids alike as a leading back-to-school manufacturer intro-



BABY'S HIP HAPPENING SUMMER

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Each time an additional P100 worth of items is purchased, shoppers will receive a stamp on the tracking card. Once 10 stamps have been accumulated, surrender the card and the Cotion Stuff Baby Essentiats Gift Set Is yours for the taking. absolutely free. Stamps and Cotton Stull Baby Essentiats Gift Sets may be redeemed from unti-June 1. Whatever you buy for baby, remember that cotton is key!

duces new sets of notebooks, drawing books, pencil cases and wrappers. The list goes on as Totally Spies also formally launches other products such as diaries, autograph books, photo albums, photo boxes, coin banks, scrap book, invitation cards and sumptuous party goods, which are already available at leading bookstores and novelty stores nationwide.

Still can't get enough of Totally Spies? Then maybe a chat with the girls to endorse your products will make a difference. Interested parties are invited to be part of Totally Spies' worldwide licensing and merchandising program. For inquiries, call 722-4311 or email licensing@empiremultimedia.com. Log on to www.empiremulti-

IDDULAR CONCEPTS, INC.





Cainta welcomes TeleTech

By Raquel Gomez

reletech, a leading global business process outsourcing (BPO) provider, continually and rapidly expands its presence in the country with the opening of a customer management center (CMC) in Cainta. This event is seen as a most we come development in the area known as the gateway to the Rizal provider.

The Cainta CMC is the fourth location to be established by the company over the last four ap to 150 languages



GEOFF Domigne, site director, Cainta CMC

the site, we are building the site, we are building our teams, we are building relationships with our clients and we are also

building the

culture here'

years. Currently, TeleTech CMCs are established in Fort Bonifacio, Pasay City, and Novaliches, Quezon City.

TeleTech was founded by Kenneth Tuchman in California in 1982. Today, TeleTech has operations in 16 countries and on four continents, managing over two million interactions in up to 28 languages and 43 countries every day—with the capability to serve customers in an to 150 languages.

The Cainta site is said to be TeleTech's largest CMC in the country with total floor space of more than 11,000 square-meters. The center is characterized by state-of-the-art technology and ultra-modern facilities. It has more than 1,200 agent seats, several fully equipped training rooms and e-learning laboratories, and a welcoming Talent Acquisition area.

This new CMC has several features never before seen in other TeleTech CMCs in the country. There is an auditorium that can be used either as a training laboratory or an entertainment center where employees can unwind by watching films. The center is handicap accessible guests use the walkalator from the main entrance to the office. A 24 x 7 full-service restaurant will serve a wide range of cuisine.

With the opening of its newest CMC located in Cainta, Rizal, TeleTech displays its continued confidence in the Philippines and the Filipino talent. Considered as the largest center not only in the country but also globally, Cainta CMC is an affirmation of bigger things to CAINTA/BB





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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

12 welcomes TeleTech

From page 87

Working with TeleTech has helped me achieve most of my ambitions and my personal goals. Here, I have a career and I am able to pursue a balanced lifestyle," she says. 'Some people find going to work so taxing. Not me. Home is just a few minutes drive so I have more time to be with my family. And because Cainta is so close to commercial centers, it's very convenient for me to meet up with friends after work,' says Bulanhagul

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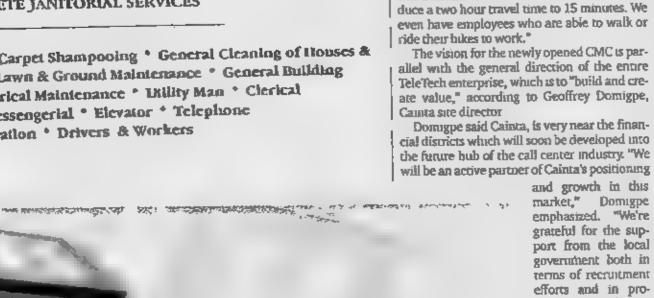
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Cainta, described as a first-class municipality dotted by subdivisions and residential areas, stands to benefit economically from the newly established TeleTech CMC. The company's presence will attract economic activity and will generate jobs for the people of Cainta. "When any organization comes to a community, it can often be difficult to measure the economic impact. I have been told that our economic impact has a multiplier effect of eight times. Meaning, when employees of a company spend money in the community, that amount will directly impact on eight individuals," said Mel Vance, executive director of Intemational Operations.

"Clearly we are happy to help contribute to the economic development, but more importantly we are eastanc about what the commu- when she learned TeleTech was moving into nity provides us in the form of what we consid- Cainta which is just a few minutes from her er our most valuable resource - our employ- home. ees," said Vance.

Cainta Mayor Ramon Ilagan has expressed great pride with the arrival of TeleTech because it is the first big step towards his vision of transforming Cainta into a knowledge - and

technology-based municipality. Vance commented that the company's move into Camta is in line with TeleTech's "Lifestyte" Initiative," wherein the company gives priority to activities that encourage employees to enjoy a productive and healthy lifestyle. "We recognize the fact that most of our employees do not reside in what I like to call the "call center row" so when we were looking to construct our fourth site in the Metro Manila area, Cainta was a natural choice. We have been able to reduce a two hour travel time to 15 minutes. We even have employees who are able to walk or fewer people, and the beginnings of residen-

The vision for the newly opened CMC is parallel with the general direction of the entire Tele Tech enterprise, which is to "build and create value," according to Geoffrey Domigpe,

Domigpe said Cainta, is very near the financial districts which will soon be developed into the future hub of the call center industry. "We

and growth in this market," Domigpe emphasized. "We're grateful for the support from the local government both in terms of recruitment efforts and in promoting TeleTech."

The employer of choice

Backed by its key observations learning from its four years of operating in Philippines, the TeleTech has created an employee development program coupled with lifestyle program that promises to raise the bar for human capital management in the industry.

What sets us apart from the rest is our focus on the professional and personal development of our employees," according to Craig Reines, vice president and general manager of North Asia operations.

Remes says, "We built this have Lifestyle Program to drive significant benefits unperalleled in the industry. This is targeted directly at our employees and their families." The Lifestyle TeleTech Program offers special deals and discounts exclusively for TeleTech employees. The program promotes health and fitness, various after work activities, and

personal development programs.

Aiming for work-life balance

Sharron Bulanhagui is a senior operations manager at the Cainta CMC. She handles six campaigns that include sales, healthcare, telecommunications, high speed Internet services, and car insurance. Sharon is just one of the satisfied employees who saw her career biossom at TeleTech.

Bulanhagui joined TeleTech three years ago as a team leader for a healthcare account before being promoted to operations manager for the online retailing account at the Pasay City CMC. She was an operations manager for eight months before her advancement to semor operations manager

Bulanhagui seized another opportunity

"Working with TeleTech has helped me achieve most of my ambitions and my personal goals. Here, I have a career and I am able to pursue a balanced lifestyle," she says, "Some people find going to work so taxing. Not me. Home is just a few minutes drive so I have more time to be with my family. And because Cainta is so close to commercial centers, it's very convenient for me to meet up with friends after work," says Bulanhagui.

A fulfilling job

Neil Vargas, operations manager at CMC Cainta, clearly remembers that the site where the Robinsons Place mall now stands used to be a rice paddy. A long-time resident of Cainta, Neil says the area was very rural then, with tial development.

Vargas says that TeleTech's Cainta CMC wil. provide a good opportunity not only for the community but for the residents as well

"I know this place, I know the people here. And it's a good thing that TeleTech decided to come here. The contact center and BPO industry is now booming and Cainra residents, as well as the nearby areas of Cainta, can have a chance to move up and enjoy more job opportumbes."

He says the establishment of the very first BPO center in Cainta will attract other investments into Cainta as well. "The city's spreading and Cainta is getting the attention of big players or companies. TeleTech has been bringing the company closer to where its employees live and I think that's a great strategy," Vargas asserted.

Vargas handles a technical support account and managing 180 people. He used to work at TeleTech Roxas CMC, but upon hearing that TeleTech will open a center in Causta, he opted to be transferred there. "Now it only takes me 15 minutes to get to the office! With the two hours of travel time that I saved by working in Cainta I can now go to the gym or enjoy a cup of coffee with friends."

A graduate of St. Benilde, Vargas has been with TeleTech for more than two years. He looks forward to staying long at his job. "I find fulfillment with what I do here. Tele Tech offers you a balanced work-life. The company gives you avenues where you can improve your physical condition, health, mental growth, and emotional growth. TeleTech focuses on employees' holistic development. That's the first thing that I learned when I came to TeleTech. Our organization develops us to become better leaders, better managers."

Happy employees satisfy customers

Amy Alde is in charge of human capital delivery at TeleTech Cainta CMC. She says TeleTech customer service representatives (CSRs) are well-trained to handle the job. The CSRs undergo intensive training programs, tests, and are coached before going into acrual production

Giving rewards and recognizing achievements encourage employees to work harder at attaining their objectives.

Alde says all of TeleTech's facilities are very employee-friendly. This facility is designed in such a way that the employees would have cozy break rooms and a 24-hour restaurant. "We also have quiet rooms or sleeping quarters that are provided with fresh beddings, linens, and pillows. TeleTech is one of the companies that really looks after its people," says Alde. "We want our employees to feel proud about working in TeleTech. Through the programs we have you can see that the management is very serious about satisfying our staff. We believe happy employees will be happy customer service representatives," Army concludes.

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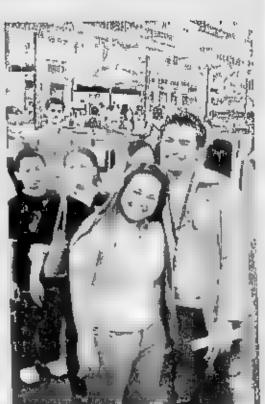
TeleTech opens Philippines CMCs to families and friends

TELETECH UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE of family-that's why, on March 5 and 12, the doors of the Philippines' customer management centers (CMCs) in Novaliches and Rooas were opened to welcome employees' families and friends. This fun event was dubbed "feleTech Family Tour Day 2006".

With the adept planning of the CMCs' employee recognition teams, guests were treated to a 20-minute guided tour of the CMCs. This gave them a chance to see the sites' amenities. Many were amazed at how beautiful the offices are with the colorful walls, high-tech facilities, and quiet rooms.

After the tour, employees with their families were led to the activity area for a short program and a meet-and-greet session with the TeleTech management team. Children enjoyed games, entertainment, face painting, and arts and crafts activities.

It's evident that TeleTech is proud of its employees in the Philippines and around the world. "They're all world-class and highly professional," commented Craig Reines, vice president and general manager, North Asia operations. "We want them to feel privileged working for TeleTech. We also want their families, relatives, and neighbors to feel good that they know someone who works for a great company like TeleTech."



FAMILY and friends enjoy the guided tour in one of TeleTech's state-of-the-art Customer Management Centers (CMCs).



TELETECH employees are shown in photo during a nurserypreparation activity at the La Mesa Dam watershed.

People, Events & Products

Graphic Expo '06 kicks off annual animation, digital art competitions

THE ANNUAL ANIMATION AND DIGITAL ART competitions for the prestigious Graphic Expo 2006 have begun, with entries from amateurs and professionals now being accepted.

The winning works will be exhibited at the Philippine Trade Training Center from June 14 to 17 during the staging of Graphic Expo 2006, the country's premier trade show on desktop and web publishing, digital photography and imaging, pre-press, print production, large format printing, multimedia, and

Qualified to join the 5th Animation Competition are design and animation studios, production houses, schools and universities, training institutes, animators, multimedia specialists, and web masters.

Competition categories are amateur/student level, and professional. Participants can use any animation software, preferably 3d The theme is "Filipino Life and Magic."

The concept should be original, entertaining, and wholesome. Use of logos, brand names, foul language or action, and violence is banned. Maximum running time for animation entry is two minutes for amateur/student level, and three minutes for professional.

Entries, which must include concept and

format using Quick Time with 800 x 600 resolution, no compression. Audio format should be in 44khz 16 bits stereo.

For the Annual Digital Art Competition 2006, qualified to join are professional and amateur graphic and digital designers, web masters, photographers, and digital artists. The categories are digital graphic design, digital fine art, and web design.

For preliminary judging, entries must be printed on A4-size photo or inkjet

paper, except for web design where the works must be submitted in the form of URL.

The participants can use scanned imagery and digital painting techniques through various available graphics software. Each entry must be accompanied by a one-paragraph concept brief. Contestants can submit unlimited number of entries.

For the web design, entries should reflect the designers' creativity, originality, and understanding of the unique challenges in this field. Web sites will be judged for appearance, flexibility, navigation, interactivity and suitability for their target audiences.

All entries to any of the two competitions -Digital Art, and Animation - must not have

storyboard, should be submitted in CD Rom photos, images, symbols and artworks whose copyrights belong to other persons. Deadline

for submission of entries is on May 19 Each entry should include the name of the artist, address, company/school/training institute, contact person, telephone, fax and mobile numbers, and email address, and must be submitted to Fiera de Manila (Zen Bldg., 8352 Mayapis St., San Antonio Village, Makati City; call center: 8960639, 8960637, 8996216; email: fiera@info.com.ph; website: www.fmi.com.ph, www.graphicexpo.com.ph).

Prizes in cash and in kind await the winners. Announcement and awarding of the winners will be held on June 14 at the opening ceremonies of the Graphic Expo 2006, which is now on its 11th year.

Graphic Expo 2006 is supported by EPSON, Hewiett Packard, Canon, eArt Phils., IdN Club Phils., Zone V Camera Club, Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines, and Animation Council of the Philippines, and sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, IT Update, Computerworld, Softrigger Interactive, Digital Fox, GA Printing Inc., Web Philippines, BusinessWorld, and Manila Bulletin.



PHILAMLIFE IS RP'S FIRST PLATINUM TRUSTED **BRAND AWARDEE**

Philamilia recently became the country's first and only financial institution to be named a Platinum Trusted Brand by Reader's Digest Asia in his 2006 Trusted Brands Survey conducted by AC Nielsen This marks Philamilie's record third straight Platinum award from Reader's Digest, Philamilia president and CEO Jose L. Cuisla Jr (2nd from (eft) is shown receiving the Platinum Trusted Brand plague together with Philamlife senior vice president and chief marketing officer Lizanne Uychaco (4th from left) during the awarding ceremony at the Mantle Peninsula, With them are (from left) Mark Cass, Reader's Digest Asia advertising director, ed-

itor-in-chial Jim Plouffe, regional advertising director Simon Cholmeley, and advertising sales director Litet Yan, Philamlife received the highest score among all the life insurance firms, banks, and investment fund companies chosen by Philippine consumers in the survey, which asked respondents to name their favorite compan es across 42 categories and rate them according to quality, value strong image, innovativeness, trustworthiness, and understanding of consumer needs. Ph. amilie scored more than double its closest competitor, earning the company an unprecedented third consecutive Plat-Inum award.

BEST DRESSED AWARD

Young business executive Ja- 1 clyn 'Chinkee' T. Glemente was recently awarded one of Manila's Best Dressed Young Women 2005. The awards dinner took place at the Forbes Town Center at the Fort Burilacio **Biobai City, led by Best** Dressed chair and founder Karr Marin and 2005 honorary chair Dr. Mitzl Plad. For 9 years running, this prestigious event recognizes distinguished young men and womon with style and substance. Chinkea is a Political Science graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, Quezon C ty and is currently the business development manager of the family-run Boico Marketing Inc. (BMI) Aside from her usual tasks in the company, she recently took over as managing director of BMI's Gord, acks Bakeshop franchise. Chinkee is shown at center with Shella Romero and Carmela Laurin.





PASCUAL

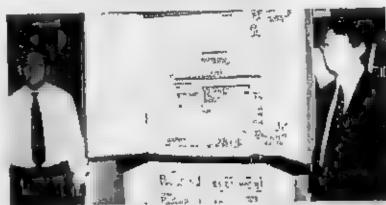
Drugstores Convention The Drugstores Association of the Philip-

pines (DSAP) an association of drugstores owners nationwide with 2,500 members and composed of more than 5,000 drugstores nationwide through its president, Ma. Erlinda Pascual and convention chair Rodel Vizconde will be having its 10th DSAP National Convention on Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at Crowne

Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center. The theme of this convention is 'Expanding Borders' The highlights of the convention is the opening caremonies of more than 100 exhibit booths, top caliber speakers (Bo Sanchez is one). two nights of mini concerts by great performers, bigger and batter 'deals', pienary sessions of very interesting topics about drugstors business and many more. Registration is on going for delegates and more exhibit booths are still available. For registration and booth registration, call 633-5253 or 831-4254 and look for Jof, Noet or Jane.

Conquer the majestic Mt. Pinatubo

istand Caravan offers up the Pinatube challenge with its day tour program 'Ma-Jestic Cliric.' Travelors have two choices for the program. The complate "Majestic Climb" program is inclusive of transfers from and to Manila, 4x4 vehicles for the mountain route, buffet kinch, guidos, and travel insurance P3,000. The second option is that travelers drive their own vehicles up to Sta. Juliana, Tarlac before taking the 4x4 vehicles and packing their own funch, for P2,500. This option is inclusive of guided tours, 4x4 valucies for the mountain route, and travel insurance. The set date for the Majestic Climb event is May 20 Interested parties can call teland Caravan at 096-1910, 896-7569, and 896-1893,



SHARP ELECTRONICS LAUNCHES NEW TECH

Sharp, the no. 1 LCD TV producer in the world recently unveited the Biggost Thing to hit the market at a press conference which took place at Dusit Hotel Dahlia and Campila Ballrooms last April 21, 2006. Dubbed as the "Science of Sharp" gross faunch, sharp introduced its world-class seloctions of seperior products. The unparalleled technology of the next. generation TV- Sharp AQUOS 65-

Inch LCD TV: Sharp ES-AG750PF and ES-AG850PF Ap Ion Washing Machines, and Sharp's Double French door Plasmaclusier refrigerator. Shown were Hiroshi Hatano (right) Sharp AVP & domestic sales division general manager and Peter Villanuova, assistant manager, prodact marketing showcase the Sharp Double French door Plasmacluster reinoprator



BMW Premium Selection.

Pre-owned Automobiles.

مطلقا دعوان الإربياد والمهالي والمجاور والإرمالي

BMW Premium Selection program benefits:

- @ 12 month or 20,000 kilometer warranty
- comprehensive 100-point technical check
- co certified vehicle history
- flexible ownership packages

MODEL	COLOR	YEAR	MILEAGE	PRICE
BMW 118i Sport	Titanium Suver	2005	6,509 kms	TADE DOOD!
BMW 120ì Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	8,411 kms	F 17/10000000000
BMW 316i (E36)	Calypso Red	1998	42,290 kms	Thin moth
BMW 318i Lim.	Titanium Silver	2003	33,000 kms	PACHODORO
BMW 318i Executive *	Or ent Blue	2004	31,311 kms	
BMW 318i M-Sport *	Topaz Błue	2004	25,708 kms	130400000000
BMW 323: *	Cosmos Black	1999	67,554 kms	DHOUD DOD
BMW 325i Executive *	Titanium Silver	2003	19,884 kms	
BMW 325: Executive *	Sienna Red	2004	33,454 kms	Phytophograph
BMW 325i Executive *	Black Sapphire	2004	35,000 kms	
BMW X5 3,0d Executive	Titarium Silver	2005	7,503 kms	XIII WOOD NO
BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster	Maldives Bite	2005	7,094 kms	P2/900/000#0
*E46 models * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	managers.		egne i dia mili ter in it	Desaits and Process colleged to desaits with the galax against

Prestige Cars BMW

2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City frunkline (02) 892 8127-29 CPO Direct Line (02) 812 7950 Fax (02) 816 7325

BUSINESS

UBS bullish on RP

Swiss firm raises GDP projections

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES—WITH ITS FALLING BOND yields, rising property prices and rebounding banking sector-has taken the path that led Turkey to an impressive economic boom, said UBS Securities Pte. Ltd.

In a study entitled "Philippines: From Buzz to Boom" dated May 10, UBS senior economist for Southeast Asia Christa Janjic noted that Turkey's successful fiscal adjustments and program to lower inflation had lowered interest rates and bank lending to the government, forcing banks to find new sources of growth.

Since 2003, credits to the private sector in Turkey nearly tripled while credits to households rose more than four times, perking up real investment by an average of 30 percent each year and private consumption by 9 percent, she noted.

She said the boom that followed was extraordinary by any standard: growth in gross domestic product more than doubled to 7.5 percent on average between 2003-2005; the equity market was up 440 percent since the beginning of 2003; and, the Turkish Lira had risen by 20 percent in real terms.

"In many respects, we think the Philippines today looks like Turkey at the beginning of 2003," Janjic said, upgrading GDP forecasts for the country to 5.2 percent this year and 5.8 percent next year, from earlier projections of 4.8 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

However, the economist said UBS did not expect the Philippine economy to grow at the same pace as Turkey as the starting point was different and the speed of adjustment "considerably slower."

"But Turkey still provides an important lesson for the Philippine economy as far as the

dynamics of adjustment are concerned. And we don't see why the Philippines could not repeat some of the trends that we saw in Turkey," Jangic said.

"This is particularly true given ongoing m.cro developments specifically, reforms in the banking sector and the cycacal recovery in the property market-which should provide the catalysts for stronger lending and, ultimately, economic growth," she said.

But Janjie said among the risks to this builish scenario were a possible reversal in bond yields. sharply higher globa, prices that could jack up inflation and bond yields, a renewed blowout of the budger deficit and government borrowing and domestic political volatility.

To date, she said bank lending in the Philippines remained anemic, GDP growth driven almost exclusively by consumption, and mvestment still sluggish even when bond yields had already come off sharply

The weak lending growth was attributed to high non-performing loans and assets, weak capital base and high lending rates despite falling Treasury bill and bond yields.

But she said "the building blocks may be coming together" as banks' bad assets had been failing sharply on the back of the Special Purpose Vehicle framework which provides fiscal incentives to the sale of problematic loans and foreclosed properties.

"The SPV is likely to be used more extensively going forward as real estate prices have started to rise. This implies that assets are more likely to clear because the gap between ask and bid prices is converging," Janjic said

She added that bank recapitalization was taking off, with at least six banks intending to raise capital this year while ongoing consolidation in the banking sector was speeding up this process.

DOE to push use of autogas

By Abigail L. Ho

TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF LIQUEFIED petroleum gas for transport, the Department of Energy is coming up with financing schemes to make it easier for small tax; operators to buy the equipment needed to use the auternative fuel

"We're looking at how to provide assistance to small taxt operators, or those with just 10 units or less," DOE energy utilization and management bureau director Mario Marasigan said in a recent interview.

He said government financial institutions, such as Philippine Postal Savings Bank Inc., could be tapped to provide affordable loans to acquire the conversion kits that cost between P26,000 and P30,000 each.

Development Bank of the Philippines has a financing scheme for the autogas program, but it was not meant for small tax, operators but rather, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), he said.

"We really want to help drivers and small operators because using autogas will save them about P1 a kilometer. That will be a big help to them, especially with the current high oil prices," he said.

He said it would take taxi drivers or operators about 86 days to recover their investment in autogas conversion kits

The cost of these conversion luts was quite small compared with the potential savings that users could generate from shifting to autogas, he added.

Toyota has GM in its sights

TOKYO-DETROITS AILING AUTOMAKERS may be struggling to get out of reverse, but Toyora showed that it is just shifting into high gear.

Toyota, Japan's largest car maker, posted a 17.2 percent jump in net profit, to a record 1.37 trillion yen (\$12.1 billion) in the fiscal year ended March 31

It was its sexth consecutive year of record profit, enough to make it one of the world's most profitable manufacturers.

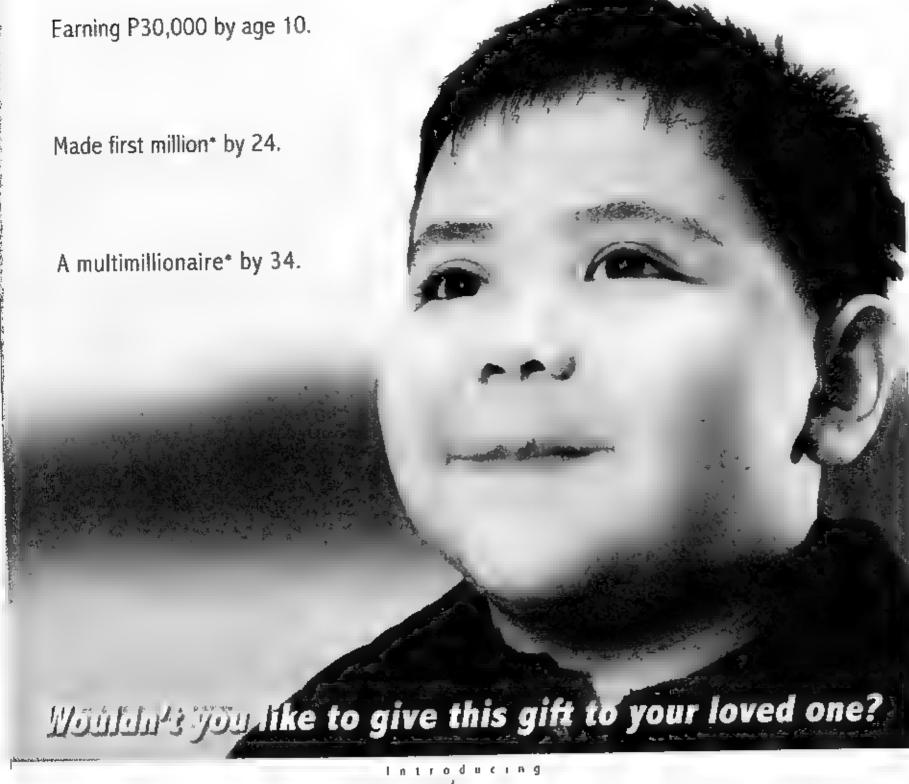
Toyota also released a vehicle sales forecast that analysis said shows it is on track to dethrone the floundering General Motors as the world's sargest car maker, possibly as soon as

Toyota said its entire group, including Daihatsu Motor and the truck maker Hino, will sell 8 45 million vehicles this fiscal year, 476,000 more than last year.

While GM has not released a forecast, many analysts expect it to drop below last year's 9.17 million vehicles. GM, which has held the top position for 75

years, is struggling to recover from a \$10.6billion loss amid labor tension and soaring gasoline prices. its first quarter was profitable, but if it were

to sell B percent fewer cars and Toyota exceeded its projections, then Toyota could be come the world's largest automaker.



Milestones is Philamlife's newest life insurance product that lets you only your money in more ways than one.

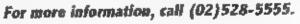
4 advantages of Philamilie's Milestones.

· Guaranteed double your insurance coverage by the 3rd year · Guaranteed cash payback every 2 years after you complete your 5-year insurance payment period

· Earns better than ordinary savings accounts · Dividends - Get your dividends anytime or accumulate them until age 65 as a substantial refirement fund Count on Philamlile's strength, stability, and financial exportise to ensure optimum returns for your funds.

fold Premium	Guaranteed Cash Payout Every 2 Years	Retirement Fund At Age 65		lesurance Coverage
(Annual Premium x 5 Years) P80,885 x 5 = P404,425*		P10,800,000*	P445,000° Starting Age 66	P6,100,000" By Age 66

* illustration for an insured age 5 with a P500,000 basic face amount, inclusive of dividends. Dividends are dependent on the company's performance and are not quaranteed, Lot your money actively work for you as you live life to the fullest. Avail of Philamlife's Milestenes today,



Pro Philam Group of Companies obtaines a lut congress financial services tide and General textinates - Propunts dark Consolly Improves - Husbit Contributions

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WHAT'S INSIDE



Center blends best of East, West

/B2-3

Herbal, MARKETING organic products Dr. Ned Roberto take center & Ardy Roberto stage in expo

/B2-2

Marketing times are a-changing

Coping will mean a shift in strategies, leading experts say

THE IDEAS BEHIND MARKETING HAVE PERpetuated for as long we can remember, but this era of extreme progress tells us that times are changing, and so must our business approach. As such, Jos Ortega, chair of the National Marketing Conference (NMC), has crafted a result of an old song.

According to him, the only way to keep up with the changes is to rethink the way we understand consumers and their needs.

Ortega identifies progressive marketing

ipmo businesses going global.

He has designed the NMC and its theme, "All That Jazz: World-Class Innovations" in a way that will cultivate and instill fresh marketing developments into the local mindset. Ortega names innovation as the first step to

stirring the marketing movement.

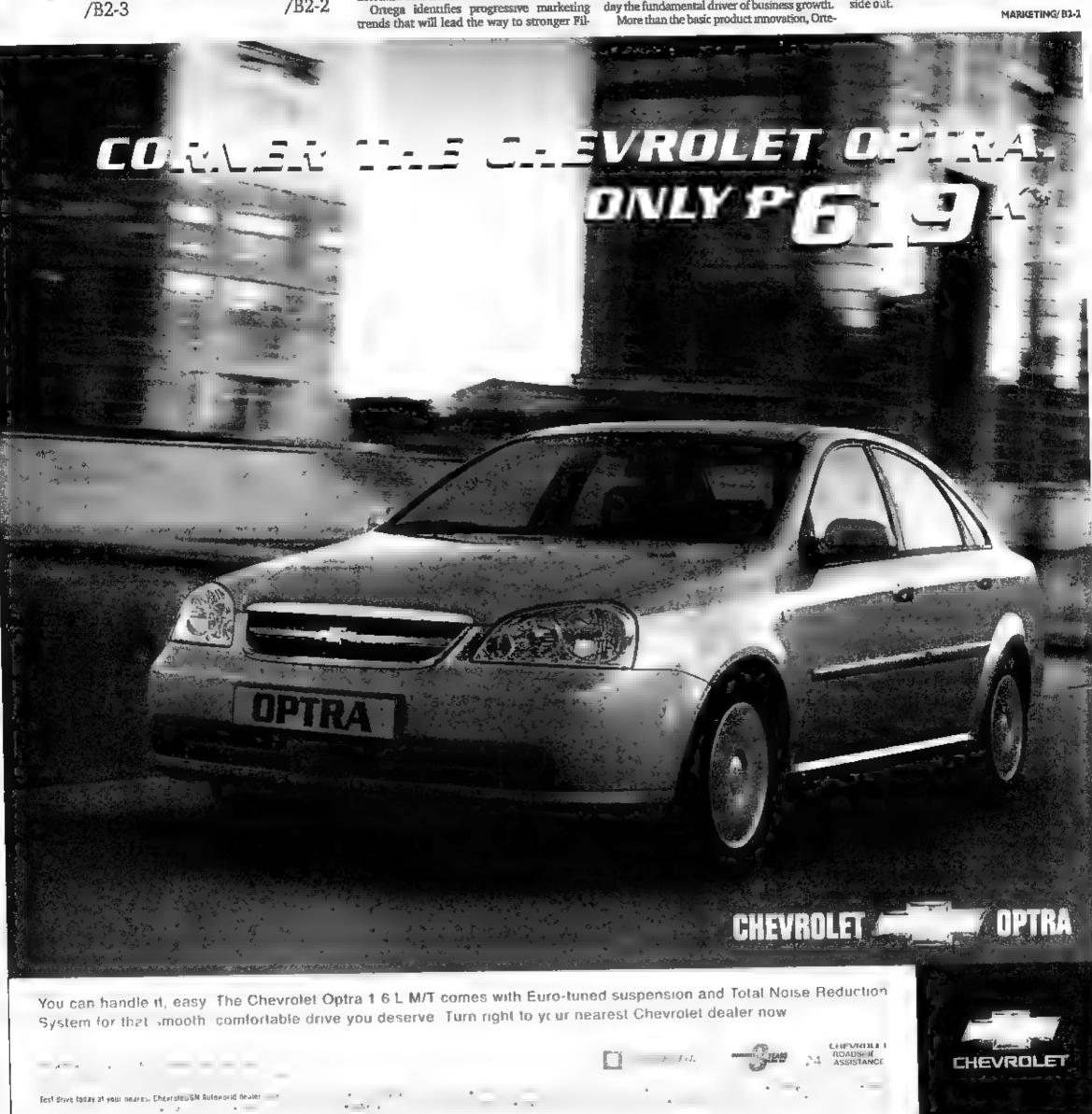
It is no longer a matter of just research and development, nor is it a luxury by which market leaders get even further ahead, innovation is to-

day the fundamental driver of business growth.

ga applies this principle to the bigger picture of an organization, and it begins in the boardroom.

He cites Ayala Land as the embodiment of innovation generating greater effectiveness,

efficiency and productivity. NMC speaker, Rene Almendras, president of Cebu Holdings Inc., will be expounding on "The Art of innovation," showing how a unique vision starts with open-minded leaders and corporate transformation from the in-





BUSINESS*Friday*

'What are the basic principles of launching a brand on the Internet?' -more marketing advice from Al Ries

HERE'S MORE BRAND AND MARKETING ADvice from our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist, Al Ries. He is joined by his daughter, Laura Ries, co-author of "The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding" and "The Origin of Brands."

Q: Which marketing tools do you think will survive in the future? Do you expect a new form of marketing for the future?

A: We expect all marketing tools to survive. They just will be used in a different way. Companies will spend much more money on PR to launch brands. Then when brands have be-

Project Location/Delivery Area

The complete schedules of bidding activities are as follows

Deadhne/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)

Contract Duration

Issuance of 6ld Documents

come established, they will switch to advertising. In fact, we don't predict much, if any decline in advertising volume. Only a change in how advertising is being used.

Q: Are the advertising agencies of this world doing the right thing by focusing on creativity?

A: Sure, that's what clients want to buy, Creativity and the more the better. If we were an advertising agency, we would be doing exactly what agencies like TBWA/Chiat Day are doing. The problem is the client. Chents want to buy creativity so they get what they want.

Approved Budget for the Contract

P8,293,297 27

Bayawan City Warehouse 12 working days upon receipt of Purchase Order

(Sgd.) Alty. VICTORIANO D. ALABASTRO Chairman, Specialized Section 2 rman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee

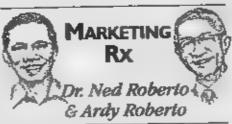
May 5, 2005

May 8, 2006

May 12, 2008 (1 00 p m)

May 25, 2006 (2:00 p.sp.)

May 26, 2006 (10:00 a m)



Our work has been with clients, trying to get them to see the role of advertising in its proper light. It's a slow process, but we do see changes.

Q: Do you think that PR and advertising should be combined in one integrated firm?

A: No, we don't. The reason is that the two disciplines involve different skills. It's like the military. Should the air force and the army work together? Sure, that's the way the war in Iraq was fought. Do we think the two services should be combined? No, they require different skills. An air force pilot would not necessarily make a good infantry company commander.

Q: How do you explain the success of Richard Branson and the Virgin Group of products?

A: One of our theories is short term vs long term. While a line extension is a loser in the long term, it can be a winner in the short term. But you can't measure success in the short term only. So we predict that Sir Richard will have problems in the long term.

Kids "R" Us and Baby Gap are line extensions of successful chains, what's wrong with capitalizing on the popu-

break down traditional barriers

Ortega encourages leaders to

cultivate ingenuity.

larity of Toys "R" Us and the Gap?

Thys "R" Us has not done well lately. And one reason is that they have become unfocused with Kids "R" Us and Babies "R" Us. The other chains take precious time away from management, drain resources, and confuse consumers. Baby Gap has only been a modest success. However, I wonder if they would have been more successful if they had given the new store a different name. With a powerful baby name, the chain could have been a big winner.

Q: When can you line extend your own brand?

A: In general, you can line extend your own brand when your competitors are also line extended. Coca-Cola was able to successfully line extend their core brand to Diet Coke because Peosi-Cola had done the same thing with Diet Pepsi. Anheuser-Busch was able to successfully line extend their core brand to Bud Light because Miller Brewing had done the same thing with Miller Lite. Whether or not you should line extend your brand is another matter. Launching a second brand can usually be more successful than a line extension.

too narrow?

A: In theory, yes you can. For example, maybe left-handed tennis racquets or ice cream for dogs is too narrow a focus to have. But our experience finds that almost no companies have too narrow a focus. People tend

Originality needs to be em-

Tony Fernandes, group presi-

dent of AirAsia, speaking on

to want to get into everything, which is why most companies are unfocused.

Q: Which are the basic principles for launching a brand on the Inter-

A: First, the site should have a separate and unique name, one that is also short, easy to spell and easy to pronounce. Second, the site should try to be the first in a new category. Amazon was first in books, for example. Third, the primary objective of the site should be to sell products or services, not to become a medium for advertising. Advertising will never become a major factor on the Internet. Why? Because the Internet is "interactive" and it's just too easy for consumers to turn off the advertising.

Our guest columnist, Al Ries, is one of the best known marketing strategists and authors in the world. He will be here in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day brand marketing conference together with his co-author and daughter, Laura Ries. Ries is the author of the international best sellers, "Positioning," "The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing," (co-authored with Jack Trout), "The 22 Immutable an a line extension.

Laws of Branding," "The Origin of Brands," and "The Fall of Advertising and The Rise of PR" (co-authored with Laura Ries). MarketingRx is hosting Al Ries and his marketing advice column until July. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries, send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

Marketing times are a-changing Because creativity is so integral it sprouts, it may blossom quite to innovation, companies must beautifully.



(PCI May 6 & 12, 2000)

Number

05-9419

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and 3id Documents will be evaluable for insurance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Skig., Bayawan City (Tet. [035] 531-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-retundable

Prospective Sidders shall duty accomplish eligibility requirements, sectorical and financial proposets and substitute same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the data indicated above

The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to weive formality therein or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan.

Republic of the Philippines Province of Negros Oriental CITY OF BAYAWAN

SPECIALIZED BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

www.bayawancay.gov.oh

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayessan, through its Specialized Bide and Asserts Committee, invites prospective supplied apply for singlibility and to bid on the following project:

Name of Project/e

Labor & materials for various labrication and installation for the Construction of

Integraled Bus Terminal

ACTIVITY

Osadilne for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LO) for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)

Advertisement/Posing of the invitation to Apply or Esignally and to bid

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan 1598 M. H. del Pitar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Maiste, Manila Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below.

ITB No.	Item / Description		Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2008-046(2)	1,005 bdls. Jacket for Savings Passbo with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8"	ak P	214,500.00	LBP Funds
	9.000 bdls. Jacket for Savings Signatu Card 5" x 7-1/2"	H/B	1,645,000.00	
	1,000 pcs. Checkbook Jacket, 8-6/8":	x 7"	13,500 00	
	3,000 bdts. Plastic Jacket for		855,000.00	
2008-045	ATM Card (Green) 1,200 units Personal Computer	Р	54,000,000.00	LBP Funds
	the second second			withdo the loc

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibidity Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted Bidding for the above requirements is acheduled on May 31, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent

Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. des Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,080.00 for ITB No. 2006-046 (2) and P6,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-045. Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on

May 18, 2006, 2:00 p.m. et the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malete, All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA

9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). LANDSANK reserves the right, to reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(POI May 5 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines Province of Surigeo del Sur Municipality of Cantilan BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Mey 3, 2006

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has mostved an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the assount of P1 749 Million under Loan Agraement #PH-P200, towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDSP) dated December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the near construction of school buildings. In view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through the DepEd-SEDIP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of the Municipality of Cantilen as implementar hareleaster cased the Agency, wishes to receive bids for the new construction of the following Relati school buildings at Cantilan National High School located at Berangay Mayasang, Cantilan, Surigeo del Sur

- Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Science Laboratory, Feculty Room and Tollets
- Two Storay Four Classroom Building with Library, Guidence Room and Tollets Two Storey Six Classroom Building

Disbursement of the ODA loss by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loss Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No. Party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any dalms to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Agency will take appropriate measures for finance. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as DepEd-SE DIP under contract funded with JBIC ODA loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts, in pursuance of this policy. JBIC

- Will reject a proposal for award I'it determines that the bidder recommended form areard has angaged in Corrupt or Fraudulent practices in compating for the contract in question;
- Will recognize a contractor as traligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA leans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in compit or insuchient precises in compating for, or in executing, another contract financed by JBIC COA loans or other Japanese

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (CAS) - registered contractors or joint venture contractor: with PCAS License at least Medium A classification on Building. Prospective Bidders/Contractors shall meet the minimum qualifying criteria of three (3) years construction experience. The activities of activities for the above fisted projects is indicated balow:

- Submission of Letter of Intent Issuence of Bid Documents
- Pre-Bid Conference
- Re-Bid Operang
- May 9-18, 2005 May 16-18, 2006 May 18, 2006 - 2:00 PM May 30, 2005 - 2:00 PM

All particulars relative to eligibility, bidding, evaluation of Bids, award of Contract and enforcement hereof shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A of RA 9184) otherwise furnish as the Government

The BAC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility, or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract if among others, there is evidence of collusion, including any act which restricts, suppresses or deleafs competition, waive any required formally therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposed a most advantageous to the government

The BAC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnity the bidder(s) for any expenses or loss that they may tricur in the preparation of its bids, or pay obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) on the ground(s) of BAC action, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the eforesentioned address.

(Sod.) VICENTE A. MIRANDA

Bids and Arrants Committee (BAC) Carulan, Sungeo del Sur

"Building a Culture of Innovaallow ideas to grow because while it may appear unsightly as uon," will discuss changing the

and introduce new facilities to braced by the CEOs.

Tel. # 221-9400 Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

DAVAG CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Ave., Davac City

The Davao City Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum (see schedule under 2) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as tisted below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Davao City Water District now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following:

PACKAGE	biscriment	Approved Subjett	THE SECURITY	DOCUMENTS
1	15,400 PCS 1/2" WATEL METERS		195,000.00	
2	(d)) (t)	980,000,000	9,000.00	1,000.00
1	12 CHATS STAINLESS STEEL	\$33,997.00	\$,346.08	1,000.00
4	12 UNITS MULTIOUS SIZES OF	636,900.00	4,369.00	1,800,00
5	AREA STATE OF THE	391,000.00	3,910.00	1,000.00
6	5 BHIES COMPUCTIVITY / TDS/	400,000.00	4,000.00	1,900.00
7	FROM BUTTER	440,900.00	4,400.00	1,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary passiful criteria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and in restricted to Filiptino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least slidy percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belongings to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipho citizens, persuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5163) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the sligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibitity check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated 6td (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Davac City Water District and Inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 6:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount (stated in item no.2). The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Davac City Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference to all interested parties on May 26, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the bidding scheduled time and date at 9:00 o'clock A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's check in the amount (stated in item no.2). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the DCWD BAC-A Secretarist Office, J.P. il Ave., Balada, Daveo City on the following schedule:

Catholy National Published and Company of the Compa				
PACKAGE No.	BIDDING SCHEDULE, TIME & DATE			
1	June 7, 2006 @ 9:00 A.M			
283	June 7, 2006 @ 2'00 P M.			
48.5	June 8, 2006 @ 9:00 A.M.			
637	June B 2006 @ 2:00 P M			

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The Davao City Water District reserves the right to accept or reject arry Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any lime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any flability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City 221-9400 (8000) Tel. No.

E-mail add . dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph : 224-5392 Website : www.davao-water.gov.ph PSH Alp. 5.6-12 7600;

standard, modifying pricing strategies and

From page B2-1

breaking down the corporate hierarchies that impair many companies today.

Another NMC guest, head of marketing Sandeep Khanna, hails from a company that has used innovation to dominate the mobile communications industry not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale.

Khanna will share the insights behind Nokia "Maintaining Market Leadership through Product Innovations" and highlight how important creativity is for a market that constantly evolves.

Lorenzo Tan, president and CEO of Sun Life of Canada, makes innovation accountable.

At the end of the day, it is the ROI that keeps a company going and Tan promotes "Driving Innovations with Fiscal Soundness" to ensure a practical side to an artistic vision. Furthering the idea of accountable creativity is Paul Roebuck, whose agency, BBDO Guerrero Ortega, was recognized as the most creative ad agency in the Philippines by Campaign Brief Asia.

He will highlight the importance of demonstrating strategic focus on delivering market results amidst winning awards.

In discussing marketing trends, Ortega believes that ideas work best when presented from the world view of the consumers.

As CEO of Brandlab Inc., he emphasizes understanding consumers as people, not unidimensional variables.

He is also pioneering the study of brand anthropology, which incorporates culture and behavior into marketing strategies.

In line with this, the NMC presents "New Research Techniques in an Innovative Environment" with managing partner of Good Thinking, Issa Barron.

and tested, this age requires new methods that are aligned with modern day problems. Beyond traditional marketing, innovations are playing a major role in corporate social re-

Although most techniques have been tried

sponsibility. Alexandra Prieto-Romuaidez of the Philipome Daily Inquirer will be discussing the value of partnerships that benefit the community

Community building then is not an option for spare time and funds but is a central part of a company's brand and business plan.

Finally, there is the evolving role of brands beyond just a marketing tool.

Ortega sees brand building as the force behind Filipino companies making it international. With this, Martin Roll, president of Ventur-

eRepublic, a strategic advisor on branding excellence, will expound on "Asian Brand Strategy" A New Boardroom Paradigm."

This means elevating discussions on the brand from the marketing department to the board level as it drives the whole company.

in the same way, Joerg Breuer, president of BMW Philippines, delves into "The Brand as the Central Operating Principle" and stresses that every company decision must be driven by the values of the brand.

From design to employees, from sales to engineering, its vision should be clearly manufested.

The NMC will feature Abbott Philippines, a pharmaceutical industry leader, directed by a leader who is also the brand pioneer, Edwin As president of Abbott Philippines and re-

gional director for Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, Felst pilots the creative process of brand building, emphasizing that innovation starts in the boardroom.

Johniu Kos, the founder and CEO of French Baker, demonstrates the importance of making day-to-day decisions based on a precise and purposeful vision.

The NMC will be held from May 18-19, 2006 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Regular rate of P8,500. Call 634-4890, 634-5722 or 6361451 for inquiries. You can also small philmarket ing@pldtdsl.net or visit www.philmarket ing.com.ph for more information.

(PD) LA 1 (MA)

BIO-SEARCH gathers the country's top micro, small, and

medium entrepreneurs and give them focused exposure.

THE TOP EXPORTERS OF EV

erything natural, herbal and or-

game are coming together to

showcase their products at the

B.o-Search, the country's lead-

ing health and wellness show,

organized by the Center for

Trade Exhibitions and Miss ons.

ering that runs until May 14,

Bio Search's trade buyers and

the general public will be treat

ed to various displays of organ-

ically certified natural food

and beverages, plant-based

skin care and beauty products,

aromatherapy and essential

herbal food supplements pro-

ducers and health spa and fit-

ness facilities that will re-ac-

quaint the public with various

healing and therapeutic meth-

ods, such as the hilot technique.

The show's various offerings

for the past decade has identi-

fied it as a venue of choice by

clean and green or environ-

This year's settings, for ex-

ampie, have been inspired by a

back-to basics theme that re-

volves around the significance

of celebrating life through

proper and careful nurturing

of the self, positive energies,

and relationship with those

A prime location of highland

teas and coffee blends sourced

from the northern and south

ern Luzon provinces will be

ment-friendly enthusiasts.

oils formulated for safe use.

During the three-day gath-

Herbal, organic products

take center stage in expo

Bio Search will also showcase entitypes of massage.

featured in the Philippine

Bote Central Inc.-the quali-

ty manufacturer of Arengga

Vinegar-leads the presenta-

tion of Rediscovering Vinegar,

an informative exhibit that

highlights the flavors of differ-

ent vinegar condiment sourced

The Spa Association will

present the local heating,

restorative and therapeutic

modality popular with tradi-

and

medicine, the hilot massage.

It will be demonstrated

Complementing this is a

Natural and Organic Tableau

by the Organic Producers

Trade Association (Opta)

where fresh fruits and vegeta-

order taking during the show,

visitors will be treated to com-

pany presentations and lecture

forums led by experts and key

Bio-Search as another bastion of

learning, where they discover var-

ious herbs and medicinal plants

transformed into nutraceuticals

(food supplements), phytophar-

maceuticals (natural personal

sion care), and cosmeceuticals

their way to the supermarkets

Some of these have found

(plant-based beauty products).

Students, perticularly, look to

Aside from the retailing and

bles will be available

industry players.

and drugstores.

back-to-back with other differ

alternative

from cane, palm and nipa.

Herbal Beverage Setting.

BUSINESS*Friday*

Center blends best of East, West

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS SUCCESSFULLY WORKing its way into the moneyed tourists' list of places to go to-and investors are smelling an opportunity.

This explains the construction boom in the

hotel industry, particularly in the beach destinations of Cebu and Boracay, in anticipation of the arrival of as many as five million tourists a year by 2010.

The rosy projections on the tourism industry were also what encouraged the group of Singapore an and Filipino investors to put up Wellness Amezcua Centre, a unique wellness destination, along Katipunan Avenue in White Plains, Quezon City.

RENU Gidoomal. Amezota general manager

Amezcua general manager Renu Gidoomal tells the Incorrer that Amezcua was set up to take advantage of the expected growth in medical tourism in the Philippines.

Medical tourism means getting foreigners to come to the Philippines to have operations done, submit themselves to a thorough executive check-up, or just enjoy spa treatments with that distinct Filipino brand of service.

This kind of tourism has done wonders for Thailand and India, which have projected themselves as prime destinations for wellness and relaxation, and Amezcua feels that the Philippines can and should be able to do the

"Medical tourism is a growing trend, and the government has put in place policies that are good for the industry," she says.

Gidoomal cites the Department of Tourism's aggressive marketing of the country's medical and spa facilities in foreign markets, particularly in China, Korea and Japan.

She says it also helps that the spa and wellness industry in the Philippines is organized and working as a group to maintain high standards and to keep tourists coming in and leaving satisfied.

Amezcua, said to be the first urban medispa in the Philippines, hopes to get a big slice of the market by positioning itself as a one-



AMEZCUA boasts of a spacious 1,200-sq.m.,

carefully designed floor space and state-of-

the art equipment

stop destination for spa treatments and alternative health care, which is in demand in more economically advanced countries.

Chents can choose from a varied list of programs for holistic healing experience: acupuncture, live blood analysis, body analysis, terrain colonic hydrotherapy and various herbal wraps.

Treatments that Amezcua claims will restore the body and spirit include the Green Coffee Cocoon, to facilitate the elimination of impurities, and the Sabai Stone Massage and signature AromaMoor treatment to combat the effects of fatigue and stress.

The country's traditional acupressure treatment, Dagdagay, to help boost the unmune system, also figures prominently on Amercua's menu of services.

Because the center believes that true health comes from a balance of body, mind, emotion and spirit, Amezcua also offers yoga, pilatis and Tai Chi classes, as well as a wet/dry sauna to relax the body.

Amezcua is built on its so-called 3H formula, which stands for hospitality, hotel and hos-

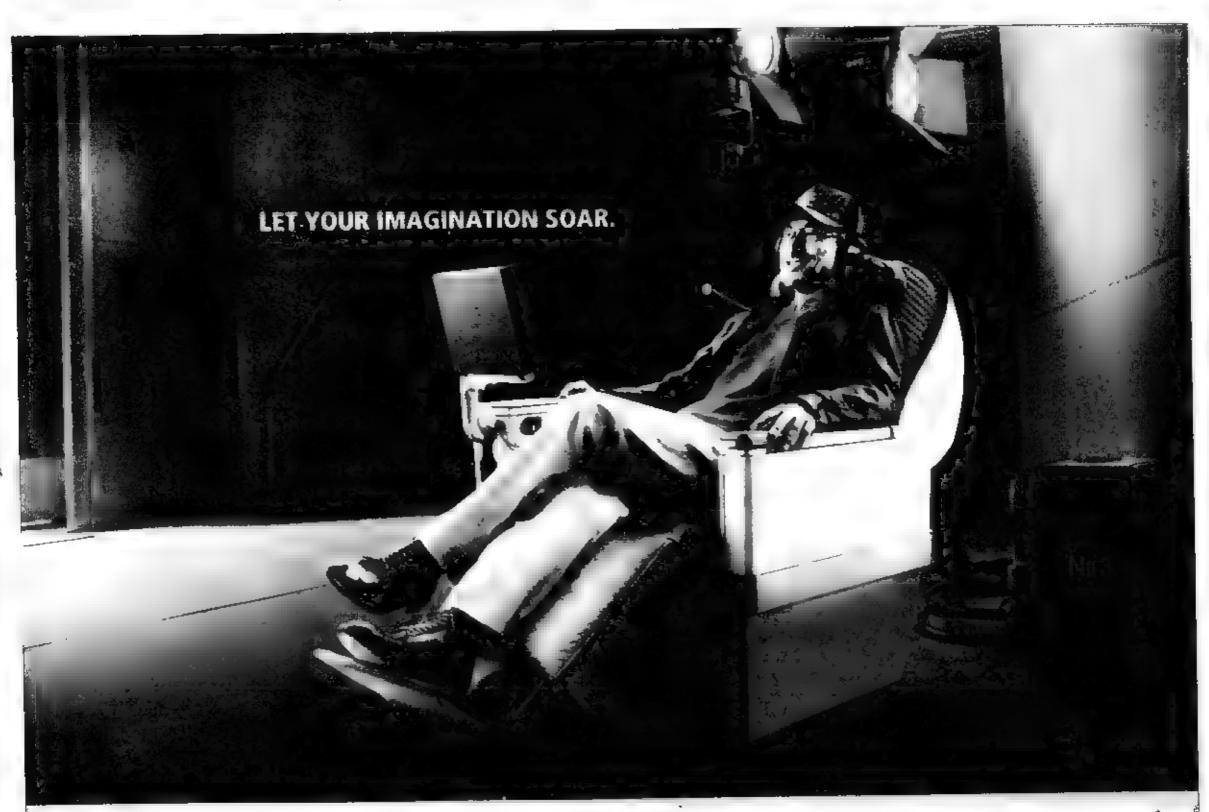
Hospitality, doomal says, means that the chents will enjoy a high level of comfort. Hotel stands for service excellence and the accompanying amenines and design, while hospital means having a staff of qualified and licensed practitioners to answer chents' medical needs

"We want to bring what hotels and hospitals have in one place, to be truly a spa and wellness destination," she says.

Gidoomal says places like Amezcua are sprouting all over the world because people truly love to be pampered, even those who are sick, so why not extend the spa experience to the medical field.

Amezcua opened in February this year and the patronage has been encouraging enough to convince investors led by Quest Vacation International Singapore to eventually look at putting up more facilities.

In the meantime, Gidooma, says Amezcua is hoping to link with travel agencies from the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and neighboring Asian countries to bring even more tourists to the Philippines, and to Amezcua.



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BUSINES SFriday

What the rich want, they get

Card firm introduces concierge services to pamper members

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HERE'S AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT Manda's rich: In less than a year, the affluent cardholders of American Express spent about a quarter of a billion pesos for retail (shopping) and travel related (more shopping and dining out) expenses.

With such spending power, businesses have no choice but to deal with the idiosyncrasies of the well to do, which is why Amex introduced its conclerge services.

Affluent members are willing to pay

for their requests

Similar to the concierge desk of top hotels, Amex is there to fulfill its cardhoiders' requests.

One cardholder, for instance, asked the concierge to look for a yacht to bring his guests to his weekend house by the beach

and celebrate his birthday.

Another cardholder asked for peonies to give to a special someone.

Peonies are round flowers that are usually pink, crimson or white in color, and are not available locally.

Amex imported a bunch.

Of course, all these come with a fee, but if the client is willing to pay.

American Express peso piatinum card marketing head Grace D. Limjap says the firm has a 15-year history in serving the rich.

Amex estimates that there are 47 million affluent individuals in the Asia-Pacific, and the number will likely increase to 53 million by 2008.

Share of rich individuals

年度~4年 amid 4年 20 次本庫 amplic (本方面の対象)

"The Philippine market has its share of affluent individuals. The American Express peso platinum card has been a beneficiary of the buying power of the affluent as shown by the number of membership rewards (MR) points earned by our card members," she says.

"Within a few months from launch, our card members earned a total of over 100 million MR points. Card members must spend P45 to earn one point. While we had double MR points until December 2005, the number of MR points earned will show you how our card members have spent in a relatively short period of time," Limjap adds.

American Express recently conducted a study of the rich in Singapore called "Inside the Affluent Space."

The study shows that "the affisent no longer define themselves just by what they own, but also by what they have experienced," Amex says in a statement.

Limjap says, "while the study was done in Singapore, our market as well as the other markets in the region do benefit from this kind of imitative as we all serve the affluent in our respective markets."

"We can say that the affluent have com-

mon behaviors regardless of geographic or racial affiliations. Like for the Philippines, this helps us come up with promotions or offers as well as benefits that suits our peso platinum card members' needs," she adds.

"It's clear that luxury is moving from the tangible to the intangible," observes Ian Fish, president of American Express Bank Philippines.

"The intangibles focus on the experiential and emotional value of an event such as a trip to an exotic destination or a dinner specially prepared by a well known chef. If the experience makes a good story, it's even better," he says.

Wealthy people crave experience

At the same time, the study points out that the wealthy desire to be freed from the complexity of making luxury choices.

The study is based on conversations with affluent individuals as well as prestige product and service providers

According to the White Paper on Inside the Affluent Space, there is a continued unprecedented growth in wealth creation and tremendous opportunities for brands, products and services that cater to the affluent

In 2005, 42 million of the rich individuals with liquid assets of between \$50,000 and \$300,000 lived in the Asia-Pacific region

The White Paper h ghl.ghted that businesses succeed and grow based on how they connect with their customers, how they deliver on their promise, and how they innovate with an understanding of not what's "now" but rather by knowing "what's" next

The main points of the study, conducted last March, is the New Ritual of Luxury "Talk-value" is the new luxury Limjap says this means that affluent individuals are no longer just seeking to purchase luxury items. They are also seeking unique experiences that make them feel special.

In the Philippines, for instance, members spend a lot on retail as well as travel to exotic as well as popular destinations.

This explains the popularity of personal chefs who will create meals in your home and the thrill of eating a P1,500 meal in a special Tagaytay restaurant with extraordinary landscaping

Passion has no price. This means that the appetite to fulfill passions—be it a meal from a Michelin rated chef or a Bose sound system—is growing. And affluent consumers will spend to fulfill those passions.

The new definition of exclusive is "Made Just for Me!" Affluent consumers are seeking to assert their sense of self and being special through items and experiences made just for them. This explains the popularity of customized bags which feature favorite photos of the owner.

The "ordinary" is precious, too. Affluent consumers also enjoy ordinary plea-

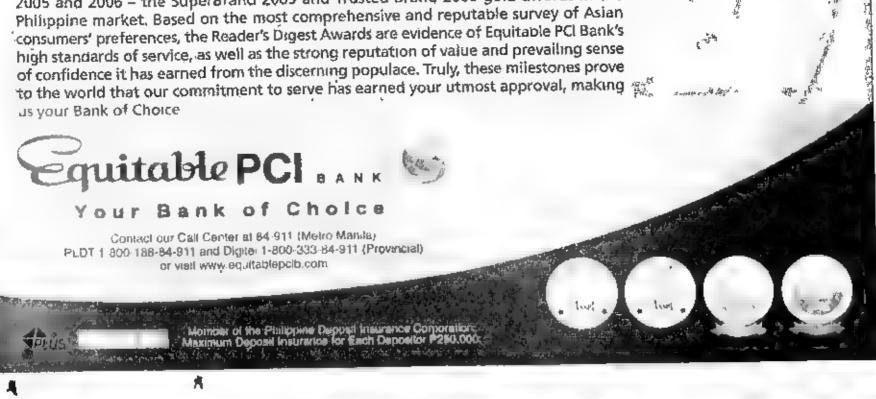
It is not beyond them to eat hawker's fare or in the Philippines—to exchange rewards points for SM gift vouchers

Privilege is not having to think. Affluent consumers don't want to have to make too many choices. They have money to spend but little time to waste having to choose from among so many options.

They appreciate merchants and compa-

mes that do the thinking for them.
"This is why we make it a point to provide experientia, events and benefits that our card members appropriate e.g. Flamenco classes and pottery sessions," says Lim, ap.

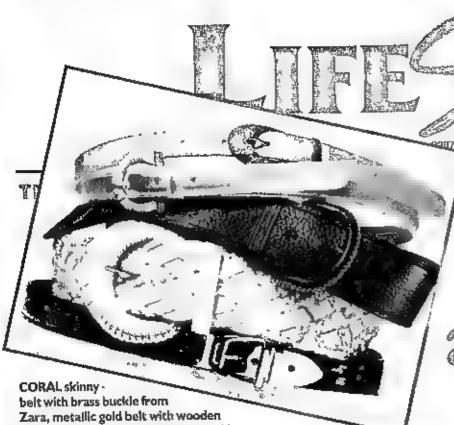




Gold Winner for 2 years in a row.

Equitable PCI Bank has earned Reader's Digest's most coveted awards for the years

2005 and 2006 - the SuperBrand 2005 and Trusted Brand 2006 gold awards in the



Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso 9207_(Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email as all ifestyle@Inquirer.com.ph

D @ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

are the way



■OR A CHANGE, HERE'S fashion we all can use. By we, I mean women whose bodies are real, whose bulges are too real they're almost surreal, women who don't stand model-tall and don't have nubile navels.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO MAGAZINE

buckle from Salvatore Ferragamo, wide black leather belt from Prada, weave belt from Zara, navy patent belt with gold buckle



from Gucci

Thelma Stoson San Juan

These are wom en who, if they must get into a gown, buy, almost instanctively, waistabs-flattening underwear called Flexees. And, they're so up to date with the trendiest diet but get too lazy to work on their "abs" regularly in the gym.

In short, the real women who must 80-90 constitute percent of the clothes market.

The good news is many of the current and upcoming trends are good for hiding the "Pinay puson" (must be in our genes)

Foremost of these is the belt, which is back in a big way. It's all over Vogue and the glossies—belts in all lands of design, size and material: leather, woven fabric, plastic, you name at-from leather belts to cummerbands. They are thin, medium-width, and wide. The "it" belt is wide and big, where your eye gets drawn to the buckle. While in previous seasons the neckpiece was the design statement, today it's the buckle which is the cutting edge.

Such style-statement belts draw the eye away from the woman's big hips and toward the waist. But then the waist is cinched, thus controlled and made to look narrower.

Unlike in previous seasons where the belt hugged the hips, today's belt is at the waist. So it's back to where it should be, but not so tight it suffocates. For a while there you thought the low-rise jeans or skirt would last until the 22nd century, and the earth would belong to only those with the perfect navel to bare. We've been "midribbed" to death, and everything was focused on the hips.

The focus now has moved from the hips to the waist. You can go for a wide belt that bolds your waist just enough to make it seem slimmer and give it shape, and in the process tightening up your "puson" as well.

However, unlike in previous "belted" eras, today's belt up look is not structured and constricting. It's softer. The belt can only clinch the put-together look-like a rank underneath a cotton top or a jacket. The belt is used to unify the mix match coordinates. (As always, your look shouldn't be so put together as to seem contrived and boring.)

The belt goes well with a dress, jacket/pants, pencil skirt, full skirt-anything you want to

look "waisted " The other trend that suits women who have something to hide-and which woman doesn't?-is, as you know by now, the empire cut

BELTS/C4



ACCESSORY by Alexander McQueen





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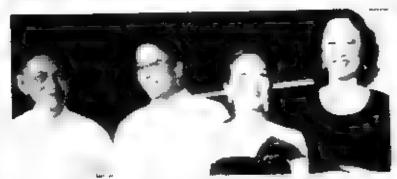


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VIOLINIST Gil Lopez Kabayao, Sen. Mar Roxas; the affair's host, TV personality, Korina Sanchez; Gemma Cruz Araneta



DR. Vivian Sarabia, former Negros Gov. Bitay Lacson, Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, Tina Sarabia Lacson and Ruth Carpio



DR. CHRISTINE Sarabia-Heras, Ikolio's popular Mayor Jerry Trenas, guest of honor Lufi Arroyo, Salvador Sarabia Jr., Dr. Sandra Sarabia-Gomez, Patricia S. Espinosa and Federico Sarabia III

Celebrating 100 years of fine vision



PHILIPPINE Academy of Ophthalmology president Dr. Minguita Padilla-Lopez and husband Dr. Vic Lopez



FUN Anton Ramos and Dunhill's hot-hot mover and shaker Denck Villarino



STEF Cabal, Kat Cruz, Stephen Ku, Michelle Pamintuan and her favorite man, Embassy's Eric Cua; and JR Isaac



BUSINESSMEN pals Gem Chua and Lance Go



MAN of the hour Whiz DJ Kaskade recks the Coconut Place in Bora.



VANESSA Mayuga and Popsie Eigir



GEOFF Rodriguez and Tisha Silang

T WAS THE NIGHT WHEN THE SWEETsounding Ilonggo was totally spoken: the grand launching of the renowned Sarabia Optical Centennial exhibit at the Ayala Muse

Dashing in a bit late, moi immediately said "hi" to the First Daughter, brilliant Luli Arroyo (who is part Ilonggo, from daddy's side), who had just led the ribbon-cutting to the exhibit featuring the

WITHOUT

Arcache

memorabiha of Dr. Federico Sarabia St., the first Filipino optometrist who opened the first Sarabia Optical in floilo in 1906.

In the impressive candle-lighting ceremony, second- and third-generation ctients of Sarabia Optical represented their forebears. The clients included Gil Lopez-Kabayao, grandson of Maurice Don Gil Lopez, who was a patient of Dr. Sarabia from 1906- Photos by Alex Van 1915. He was accom- Hagen using panied by Dr Melinda Kodak EasyShare Sarabia-Morales.

Statuesque former beauty queen Gemma Cruz-Araneta, a descendant of the Rizal family, lit the candle in memory of Dona Trinidad Rizal, a client in the Escolta clinic from 1916-1925 and whose Sarabia eyeglass case was exhibited at the Rizal Museum in Fort Santiago. Dr Freddie Sarabia escorted her

In 1926-1935, Dr. Sarabia's clients included President Manuel L. Quezon, who appointed him chair of the Board of Optometry in the Philippines.

President Manuel Roxas was also a client. He would bring his son, Gerry Roxas, to the clinic. His grandson, Sen. Mar Roxas, lit the candle for his forebears. Dr. Vivian Sarabia accompanied him.

Dr. Sarabia's son, Salvador Sarabia, and Eva Macaraeg, daughter of engineer Juan Macaraeg and the former first lady, were

Federico Sarabia Jr. became chair of the Board of Optometry. Ditto with his sister, Dr. Salvacion Sarabia.

Meanwhile, Dr. Manuel Sarabia developed a friendship with Don Chino Roces, the

Doña Florence Chan lit the candle with Dr. Mike Sarabia as escort.

Dr. Francis Sarabia Ong, the youngest optometrist of the Sarabia famille, lit the candle in behalf of the fourth generation

Naturellement, apres the presentation the happening got on a roll. Spotted was top lloilo socialite Dr. Sandra Sarabia Gomez, the woman behind the five-star Sarabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo. She was with her daughter, attractive Pauline S., palanggas.

My palangga, the adorable Dr. Vivian Sarabia, and her sister, Christine Sarabia-Heras, who is married to Quanito Heras, guided Luli around the exhibit, explaining the memorabilia to her. I was completely overwhelmed to see fourth-generation Sarabia optometrists! May their tribe increase.

Dance gig

It was the hottest happening of the hot week, palanggas-Dunhill's renowned gig at the sprawling garden and poolside of the Coconut Palace on Roxas Boulevard.

A massive stage, a DJ booth and a vinylcovered dance floor surrounded by the most advanced lights and sounds installations, make for a truly unique outdoor dance experience. Manille cosmopolites and party shakers



Francisco Sarabia and Pete Roa (seated)

ROSALIA Sarabia-

Christine Sarabla-

Heras, Eddie Roces,

Brillantes, Fred

Sarabia, Dr.

SYLVIA Heras; Antonietta Chan and mother, Doña Florence Chan; Maryann Ansaldo Chan and Maricris



¡OE Fores, Charlie Carmona and his favorite gal, adorable Leana Farrales; (standing) Mulsy Regala and Dan Morales







SMART'S Maureen Palomares, Cecille Gregorio with PAL's Kit Javier

SMART'S Ricky Isla and Jane Basas, with Adreflex's Clang



MABUHAY Miles team. Mike Dizon, Poggy Calawod, Mary Ann Timbol, Eileen Galindez and Margie Mia

rocked to the beat of Superfly DJ Karl Ty. thanks to international superstar DJ and producer Kaskade, palanggas

"Dunhill has always espoused perfection, from the stringent procedures in the creation of each and every tobacco product, and this carnes over into all of its activities," explained public relations officer G.P. Reyes, but who

This "classics remax" bash started off with a special set by renowned percussion group, Pinikpikan, whose traditional rhythms, raw chants, wild percussions and flaming rock, complemented the ethnic-electronic beats of

Ballet Manila then unleashed its captivat ing moves to the charged beats of the Kaskade anthem, "Stepping Out!" Then Kaskade, the musical personification

of Dunhill's "perfectionist philosophy," took control of the booth, sending the crowd into a wild frenzy. He played chart-toppers such as "It's You, It's Me" and "Empty Streets," and others. "Where I Am" was his first track, played amid glorious fireworks.

An awesome three hour set played on as a variety of Smirnoff specialty drinks at the VIP lounge kept pouring and a selection of the fine Dunhill cigarettes were distributed

Little did the partygoers know that the Kaskade Party would continue three days later at Club Paraw in swinging Boracay, polang-

Check this out, more Dunhili Dimensions and Superfly events will be hitting our shores sooner than soon, palanggas

Smart miles

Hey, palanggas, did you know that our pal Philippine Airlines' jetset pack, the Mabuhay Miles members, can now earn super extra miles through Smart Communications' Inter-

Mabuhay Miles has partnered with Smart Communications for "Come Fly with Smart," a program for individual account subscribers of Smart Infinity, Smart Go.d and Addict,

From April 2, 2006-March 31, 2007, Smart postpaid subscribers can earn one precious mile for every three minutes of IDD call, every three international SMS or for every MMS sent, or for every P300 billed usage for roaming services. Starting May 1, subscribers may also earn one mile for every P60 billed usage for WAP or Internet browsing.

It gets even better, dahlings, because from April 2, 2006-Jan 31, 2007, subscribers who get new Smart postpaid plans and those renewing their current Smart postpaid plans may earn enough mues to go on an awesome round-trip vacation to as far as Sydney or Melbourne, Austraka, would you believel

"We're staying to our commitment to offer nothing but the best service to our customers," said Menardo Jimenez, Smart Wireless consumer division head.

"We are certain both our Mabuhay Miles members and Smart subscribers will appreciate the benefits and rewards that this partnership offers them," said Henry So Uy, Mabuhay Miles vice president.



HENRY So Uy, PAL's executive vice president for commercial group; Butch Jimenez, Smart's head for wireless consumer division; Jaime Bautista, PAL president and COO; Joanne Rae Ramirez of People Asia; and Mon Isberto (standing), Smart's head of public affairs

FASHIONABLE

ELORALS Sur 'n'

Soon the William

Southwest 'Y

Farmarian sun,

charm and beaded

bracelets by RDS



MODEL KATHY MOYA
PHOTOS PAT ETY
MAKEUP LALA FLORES
STYLING MAKEN MENDOZA



SERIN' SPORTS Sun 'n' Sand polka-dot keyhole bikim, crochet scraft and beaded

BEFORE HEADING TO THE BEACH THIS summer, check out Robinsons Department Store (RDS) for stylish bothing suits and other swum basics.

Any "body" can look good on the beach with the right style. The secret to this is finding an affordable swimwear that flatters your body type, complements your skintone and reflects your fashion personality.

For instance, monokins and classic maillots with elegant prints and patterns that distract the eyes away from the swimsuit provide turning control and are great alternatives for round-shaped figures. Girls with small busts should opt for suits that provides subtle enhancement. An enticing two-piece halter-style swimwear is an excellent choice for slim-skinny types.

Tankins or cleverly cropped thick strap tank tops and a classic bikins bottoms are best for those with long torsos and who need bust support without sacrificing style and flexibility. This is a flattering two-piece wonder that can be worn in or out of the water, while swimming, jogging or playing beach volleyball.

Got an hourglass figure? Your much sought-after shape allows you to wear any type of swimwear. So why don't you slide into a chic cutout or a busher bandeau and celebrate your features by drawing attention to your best assets?

More than swimwear are sunglasses, accessories, wraps and cover-ups that keep you protected under the sun in style. Sarongs, shawls or sheer tunics are smart additions to your already trendy getup.

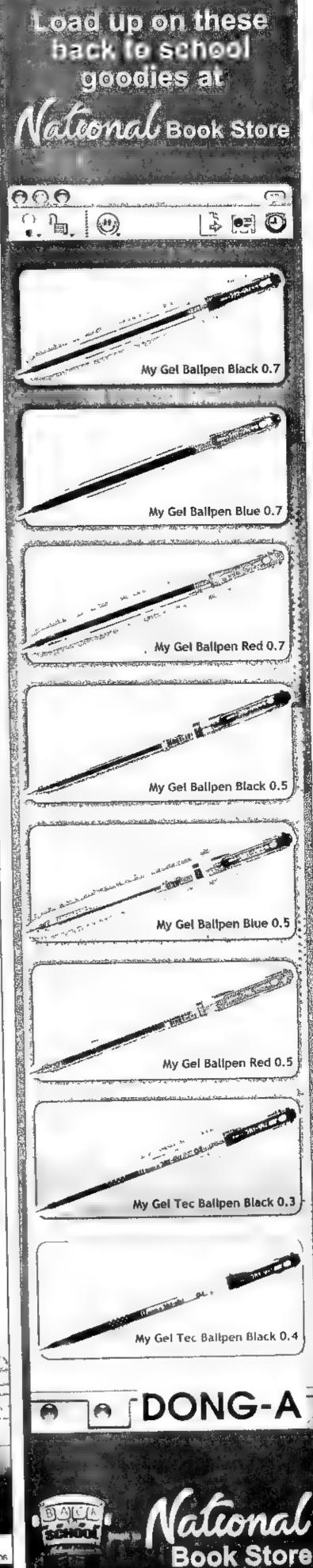
your already trendy getup.

All these are available at RDS, which branches in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang and Nepo Mall Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph

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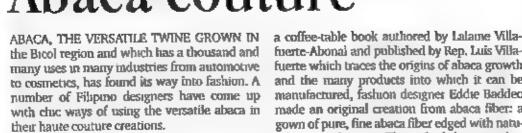




ABACA embellishments on hair

LIFESTYLE

Abaca couture



In the recently launched "Abaca Philippines,"

fuerte-Abonal and published by Rep. Luis Villafuerte which traces the origins of abaca growth and the many products into which it can be manufactured, fashion designer Eddie Baddeo made an original creation from abaca fiber: a gown of pure, fine abaca fiber edged with natural coconut buttons. The quilted shantung slort

is further embellished with abaca filaments and coco beads. An obt of abaca weave is stylized with abaca twine and hair and matching shoes are made wholly from abaca.

Photo shows Baddeo's couture gown at the Ayala Museum in Makati, modeled by JP Abinuman, and hair and makeup by Heidi Balicha of Bambi Fuences salon and Eric Maningat of Stu-



Belts are the way to go

Keira for Chanel, Jane Fonda for L'Oreal

Today's "it" girl Keira Knightley is the new image model of the fragrance Chanel Mademoiselle for the young. She's taking over the place of Kate Moss, whose substance use apparently doesn't go well with fragrance.

or baby doll. Just make sure it's constructed well.

Guess who foreal's newest celebrity image model is? Jane Fonda-at 68 years old. According to WWD, Fonda is endorsing Age Re-Perfect Pro-Calcium Treatment Line. She joins l'Oreal's other image models who cut across ages-Beyonce Knowles, Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Eva Longoria. As l'Oreal Paris' international general manager Youcef Nabi says, "Beauty doesn't stop at 30 or 40, and certainly

Tina Jacinto is introducing a fashion line at Rustan's. That should see her and her husband Rupert coming here, from New York, more and more often.

Weekend warriors

The annual international triathlon was herd in Subic over the weekend-not your run-ofthe-mill sports event. It gathered men and women who are fully committed to an active

lifestyle, while being the fiercest businessmen and corporate executives the rest of the week.

It must have been exhibitating for these corporate honchos who finished the event: HSBC's Warner Manning, ABS-CBN Publishing's Errue Lopez, Van Melle Mentos' Niels Hab, PetPlans' Larry Ocampo, Fitness First's Mark Ellis, Nina Papagayo's Frank Lacson, Unitab's Joey Torres who did the sprint distance, and his sister, Nona

Meanwhile, tennis diehards at Palms Country Club in Alabang had a different idea for a despedida for fedow member Noel Oribello of Nokia, who's joining Nokia Indonesia. Members and friends had a "Noel Tennis Tournament"-led by tennis committee chair PJ Enriquez, Noel's wife Thelma, and Anthony Villarosa.

Divided into green and blue teams were Le Parge's Lizza Vicaldo and Sheila Agumaldo. Carms Tirado, Bing and Joyce Santos, ABS CBN's Raffy Mangabat and wife Wilma, Arge Hubilla, Yoshikazu Uchida, Maricar Hofilena, Arrel Crisostomo, Malou Garbo, Rey Castro, Rucky Sy, Joey Verzo, Gretch Capinpin, Shelley Mojica and Jerry Chua.

Whether it's triathlon or tennis or badminton, the city's legion of weekend warriors is surely growing. After all, you need to sweat off the stress. Work hard, and you want to play harder.

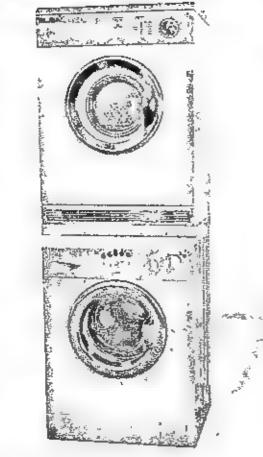


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MILF

(Mothers in Lovely Frocks)

From Red Box to ved carpet,
PTAs to parties, what must
Demi-wannabe moms don?
Two words: Look haute!

job, bills to pay, a husband to attend to and kids to feed, the closest thing you'll ever get to looking like Demi is when your shirt is covered in mud—not from pottery foreplay, but from washing the dog.



Jenni Epperson

When you were single the only thing you've probably worned about was getting an appointment with the hottest hair colorist in town, squeezing a "maniped" during lunch break and scoring lacy underwear. That's hot

Domestic bliss is more than just about preparing meals for the family, decorating the home, or doing the grocery; it's about doing all of those but wearing your sky-high stilettos and oversized

shades and carrying your super-sized tote.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with sharing the love—but letting your fashyon self take a back seat from your Mama role—well, it's just plain rubbish.

Dreamy, perhaps? Not so practical, you may say. Well, you've dealt with domestic disasters in every practical way, so the last thing you want to look is domestic.

No time to go to your fave designer's lair? Well, make time! Squeeze in a fitting in your schedule and think of it as quality time for yourself. A little chika-chika with your designer can give you a slice of fashion heaven, keeping you sane and "balanced."

I often find myself seeking refuge in my designer friends' shops to take a breather. Over rows of fabrics, Diet Coke and fries, I giddily find out what dreamy designs they've whipped up for Tinsel Town's haute mome

Recently, I swaggered in the studio of designer du jour, Ivarluski Aseron (0927-2736583), and found what moms would be buzzing about over the next polluck party: graphic shift dresses and divine dusters perfect for barbecue bonanzas and dish-washing debaucheries.

Ivar is fantastic when it comes to creating silhouettes that skim the body. What Axion is to grease, his designs are to your bulges—they just disappear! Modern trappings perfect for the modern mom!

Accessories

Accessories, too, are the salvation to tired old garb. Copper confections by Ming Ong of Kathang Kamay (0920-9521479) can turn any outfit from crappy to snappy.

any outfit from crappy to snappy.

Domestic bliss? Forget domestic! Let's focus on bass. A dress molded to your silhouette... hair coiffed by a master stylist.. skin



un peu d'air sur țerre

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THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · GATEWAY MAIL, ARANETA CENTER · SM MALL OF ASIA

A city of shopping, dining and fun rises in Angeles, Pampanga

Set in a sprawling location at the gateway of the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ), SM City Clark, the newest addition to the dynamic chain of SM Supermalls is the perfect introduction to a myriad of malling pleasures for shoppers in Central Luzon.



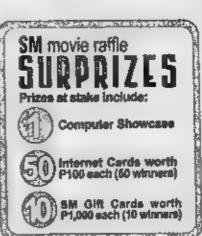


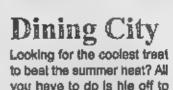
Fun City

The movies are alive and well - bursting with colors and excitement at SM Cinema. Housed in the 2nd floor of SM City Clark, SM Cinema has high-end facilities and well-appointed seating features. In its interiors, viewers can shed the cares of the day and vicariously live the stories unfolding on the big screen.









you have to do is hie off to SM City Clark with the whole family and sample the delicious servings dished out by dozens of coffee shops, noodle houses, pizza partors, snack bars and fastfood centers, particularly SM Foodcourt with its array of delectable



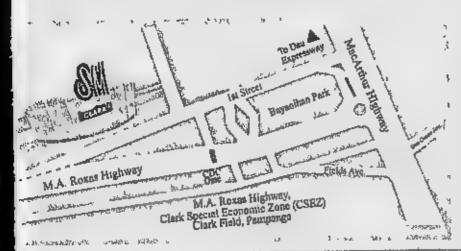


Shopping City

Be among the first shoppers to take advantage of the kresistibly affordable summer buys. Over 250 establishments showcasing a wide selection of merchandise and services are found in the biggest mall this side of NLEX.

The mail's strategic location in CSEZ makes it accessible not only to residents of Angeles City but also to shoppers from neighboring towns including Mabalacat, Magalang and Porac in Pampanga; and Bamban, Capas and Concepcion In

In addition to scores of Jeepneys, taxis and FX vehicles, 10 bus lines ply the route to the mall which has a parking terminal of 2 667 siots.



Appealor Shoes American Soulevard Arrow Artwork Bayo Barch Bebby Novenerio Celleg Calleg Claderella

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Discover the many things you can do at SM City Clark Birth Watch Repair Corn Clark Customer Service Center Copytrade Island Photo

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Spoots Sweet in Fertry Cate Triple V Selloon Twinds $\theta_{i,j}$







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or Mently Bennyander



We didn't set out to win awards, but to provide our passengers with the best travel experience. As we celebrate our 60 years of service in the Philippines, we are gratified that our efforts were recognized last year with Skytrax's Airline of the Year 2005 award and most recently Air Transport World's Airline of the Year 2006 award. We would like to thank everyone - our staff, our partners

Airline of the Year 2006 and our passengers - who made it possible as we continue our commitment to safety, technical excellence and customer service.

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Haute Mama-Style

Looking good means feel-ing good. Amid fixing diapers and lunch boxes and paying electricity bills, you should not forgot that

Besides, your little ones look up to you for guidance and the next feeding bottle. They see how you deal with juggling both career and family, so you better look ab-solutely fabulous while you're at it.

in ways both big and small, it's possible to put the drama back in the home,

prepped with diamonds. You hold the family together. Who's going to keep you together, if you don't pamper yourself?

Looking good means feel and the words of mother Whitney (which, by the way, is what she needs right now) "Learning to love yourself, it is the greatest love of all."

> E-mail author jfashion@ inquirencom ph

PHOTOGRAPHY WESLEY VILLARICA OF PARALLAX STUDIO STYLING JENNI EPPERSON OF BIG ON STYLE MAXEUP XENG ZULUETA OF SHIL GEMURA USING LASHES FROM TORYO LASH BAR HAIR BENDE ANGELES USING KIEHUS STYLISTS SERIES MODELS GEORGIA SHULZE
AND BARY NADIA
CKOTHES MARLJSKI ASERON
ACCESSORIES MING ONG
OF KATHANG XAMAY
SPECIAL THANKS TO VICKY ANGELES



يثثث



It's just food, not love. But coming from you, it's all love, honey, sweet luscious love. Gourmet confection from Fauchon Paris, gyaliabie at Rustan's

SUGAR MOMMY.

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT GUIDE FOR HUSBANDS

There's a bombshell buried underneath that worn-out, overworked woman your kids call Mom

MOTHER FAB HER. Sery, passionate, fabulous before she was more. Oh, still isl Get new titles to remind her of that. Book from Amazon.com

ECK-DEEP IN PAPERWORK at her desk, she's distracted with nagging thoughts of the dirty laundry overflowing in the hamper. It's only been a week; the house help won't be back for another two. She takes a deep breath. Ah, more wrinkles!

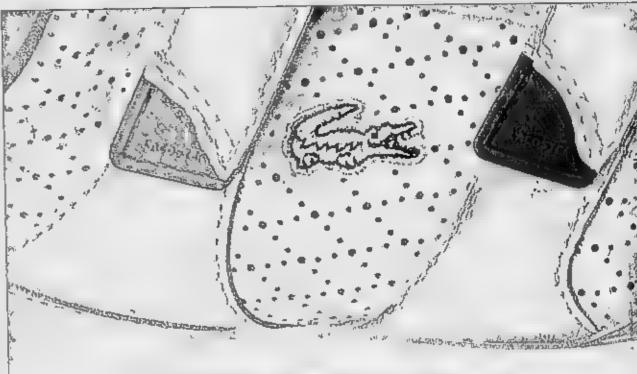
By Cheche V. Moral

She calls home to check on the kids. Did they have lunch yet? Have they been play-ing at the computer all day? Your 14-year-old reminds Mom she needs a new bathing suit—agam—so can they please, please go shopping in the weekend? They argue but, as always, your teenage drama queen wins. There goes the weekend; she can survive another week with chipped manicure.

Sighing, she makes a mental note to call the dentist to confirm Jumor's appointment on Saturday Then she plans to surprise you with a nice meal tunight, but the fridge and pantry are

FOOT THE BILL.

Pay homage to the feet that bear your idds' weight. Get her forcy heels she won't splurge on herself. Strappy sandals from Louis Vuitton





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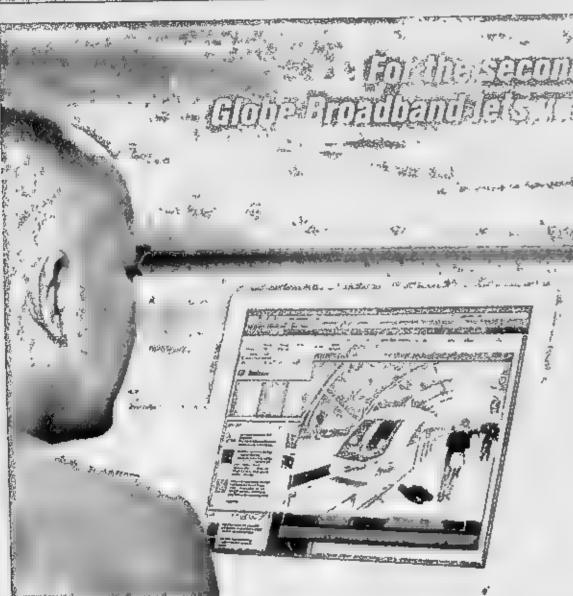




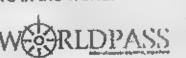
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(BIG ON STYLE@YAHOO.COM)

STYLING MAUREEN DISINI

MAKEUP XENG ZULETA OF SHU JEMURA

JEING PRECISE EYE SHADOWS AND JASHES

RABHEAL OYAGT BHT MC

HAIR ANET DELA RAMA

STYLIST SERVES

OF BYG ON STYLE



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

MOM Peewee

≣anzon Adriano_∞

Astrud Crisologo

your mother's style? Your

My mom's style was pretty

ectectic! She had different

looks. I guess I'm the same. My

current look is Gidget meets Ti-

kı na glam rock, kında like

Elvis' Blue Hawan on steroids!

way despite my insistence of a

Did your mother's fashion

Yes, most especially her ear-

her style during the '70s. I re-

membered being really proud

of her when she'd visit me in

grade school. She was a work-

colors and prints—she hoarded

glamorous. She loved bright bags

preferences in any way influ-

about your mother's style?

makeovert

ence yours?

Owner, Casa Amarilla

Mommy's girl

MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELAtionship is probably one of the most significant yet most complex bonds there is. A mother's influence on her daughter is strong and encompassing. A mom is a role model, emotional road map and arbiter of relationships.

I'm a bona fide mother's girl, so all of the above hold true for me. Somehow, I am an ally and extension of my mom. Although there

a lot of tela for our custom-

still have most of them today!

or differences between your

broidery and crochet. We've

kept certain pieces that we

knew would come back some

ference was she was more into

she would wear it again and

again. I would, but years apart.

fashion staples? What are

What are your mother's

My mom always wore big

pearl earnings and big glasses.

Mine are big sunglasses, ban-

gies made out of endangered

species (just ludding!), vintage

style and hers?

What are the similarities

We love color, prints, em-

How would you describe made matching outfits and I

What do you admire most day! We're pack rats! The dif

She was very brave and un- corporate dressing. When she

yours?

wavering She did it her own had a favorite piece of clothing

ing mom so she looked very bags and bakelite evening

were times during my teens and early 20s when I ventured away, so to speak, to establish my identity, I've found that I am becoming more and more like her in increasingly profound, and even mundane, ways.

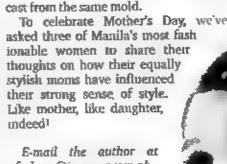
On a lighter note, I'm proud to say that my mom's fashion sense has rubbed off on me as well. I used to borrow her clothes when I was in high school, and I continue to raid her closet for almost anything-be it jewelry or an evening gown. Her penchant for clean, classic lines has inspired me to always try to look neat and effortlessly cluc. I'm obviously more

shave stories on how their equally stylish moms have influenced their strong sense of style into trends than she is but I'm undernably

Three of Manila's most fashionable women

thoughts on how their equally stylish moms have influenced their strong sense of style. Like mother, like daughter,

E-mail the author at ofashion@inquirer.com.ph



Pauline Suaco-Juan

Editor in chief, Preview Magazine How would you describe

your mother's style? Your style? When she was younger, she was very pusture—but then that was a sign of the times. She was the only girl, my mother, and every week she would get at least one new outfit courtesy of my lola, who was also a clotheshorse. She wore her clothes with matching shoes and bag and teased hair. These days, mom's still into matchy-matchy stuff, which is something I always chide her about. She feels strongly that a

pair of earnings completes an outfit. I used to feel that way, too, but lately I've been seeing the merits of paring down as far as jewelry is concerned. I wouldn't call my style antipusture, though. 1 love getting all dressed up with hair, makeup and the works, but I cant do n

all the time. It's simply too highmaintenance for me. I like lookmg somewhat undone. I don't really like looking so terribly styled. And I try to avoid that matchymatchy look at all costs-unless I'm in one of those moods where I try to dress with frony.

Did you or do you raid ber closet? What are your most precious finds?

All the time! One of the hardest things about marrying and living on our own was to have limited access to my mother's things. I'm there every Sunday rifling through her baubles to

> wear to work during the week. My mom and lold were pack rats so there's always a lot of undiscovered and rediscovered booty stored somewhere in the house. Some of the most precious to me are the vintage lace, locked away in a cedar Chinese chest. Some of them have their original price tags still attached to them. bnagine Chantilly lace for \$30!

> > What are your mother's fashion staples? What are yours?

My mom loves her earrings-especially her South Sea and South Sea-esque pearls. I'm always at a loss when I'm asked thus question. It used to be earrings, too, now ! guess it's a perfect pedicure.



MOM Amelia "Mely" Abaya



Fashlon journalist How would you describe your mother's style? Your style?

My mother is into separates, which she can mix and match with other items in her closet, rather than complete head-totoe ensembles. I also prefer separates, but my style is more about mixing and not matching-expensive with cheap, vintage with new, ladylike with something grungy

Did your mother's fashion preferences in any way influence yours?

My mom is the complete opposite of a fashion victim. She's not interested in designer labels or acquiring the latest "it" designer wear (doesn't mean I can afford them, though!), but she has influenced me to look beyond the label, and to choose things I can wear beyond a season.

What are the similarities or differences between your style and hers?

As I went through her photo albums one time, I nonced that my mother wore a lot of prints. She still does. I love prints, too,



MOM Sylvia Arrastla Ilarde

bag. I, on the other hand, love but the difference is, while she wears her prints with solids, I kick it up a notch by wearing different prints together.

Did you or do you raid her closet? What are your most precious finds?

I have claimed her sweaters and knit tops from the '60s, which are still in pretty good condition! These days I raid her closet when I need to borrow jeweary, which I end up not returning (laughs)





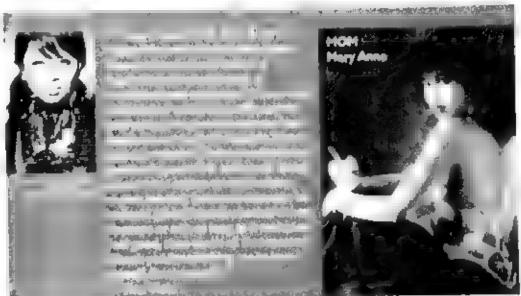






THAT

We pay tribute to the mothers of Marila's style luminaries. As the saying goes, The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. In this case, style truly is in the genes.





Hot momma

MAMMA MIAI Nothing stokes the fire, even in the earthiest of Mamas, than wispy laces and sumptuous siks for her boudoir, Lingerle by Agent Provocateur

QUEEN MUM. Take her on a holiday fit for a royal. You are her world, give her the world. Starrise at Amanptilo



From page Fi

nearly empty. A trip to the su-

If, dear husband, you've ever wondered where that vivacious, perpetually perfuried woman you married has gone, that's her at the sink, wrangling with dirty dishes as you kirk back, sated, with a sweating amber bottle in one hand, the TV cheker on the other.

How do you show your appreciation? Not by counting the wrinkles on her face, no, no, or by poking at her flabs. And certainly not, we hope, by comparing her to the twinks half her age in your office.

Maybe you can start by putting away that beer bottle and taking over at the sink (or nag the kids to). Tell her to get a long, relaxing shower, maybe massage her feet afterward, ask about her day, complement ber. She'll know you're lying, but that little effort on your part will go a long way.

part will go a long way.

Didn't you think she'd probably want to spend her days in the spa, getting primped at the salon or burning calories at the gym to regain her 24-inch waistline if she didn't put all your family's needs first? She'd probably be living in skin-tight minis and three-inch stilettos if they were practical enough to run after a toddler with. And she certainly can't spend hours preening in

TELAN MANUEL MAN

MOTHER NOSE BEST.
Stir up her senses with intoxicating scents. French perfume from Lanyin

front of the murror with so many chores at hand.

Think again: Each new crease on her face, each single added pound on her hip, each frumpy clothing on her body, each heartache is directly proportional to her love for you and the kids. The kids may be too young to realize this, or too caught up in their own little selfish kids' worlds, but it shouldn't be lost on you. So think before your eyes stray again on those office twinkies.

For once at least every single

year, reciprocate that love with

he same kind of care she gives 365 days of the year. Make ber feel like that bombshell you narried before the kids came one after the other. This Mothel's Day, make it all about her. Take over the kid duties this weekend and send her for some pampering at the spa and salon, or maybe get a pedicure to go with those coquettish deels you'll surprise her with. Make a side trip to the bookstore, get her those new, popuiar self-help tomes to remind her of that hot mama buried underneath all her mommy duties. And, for chrissakes, free up some of her time so she can

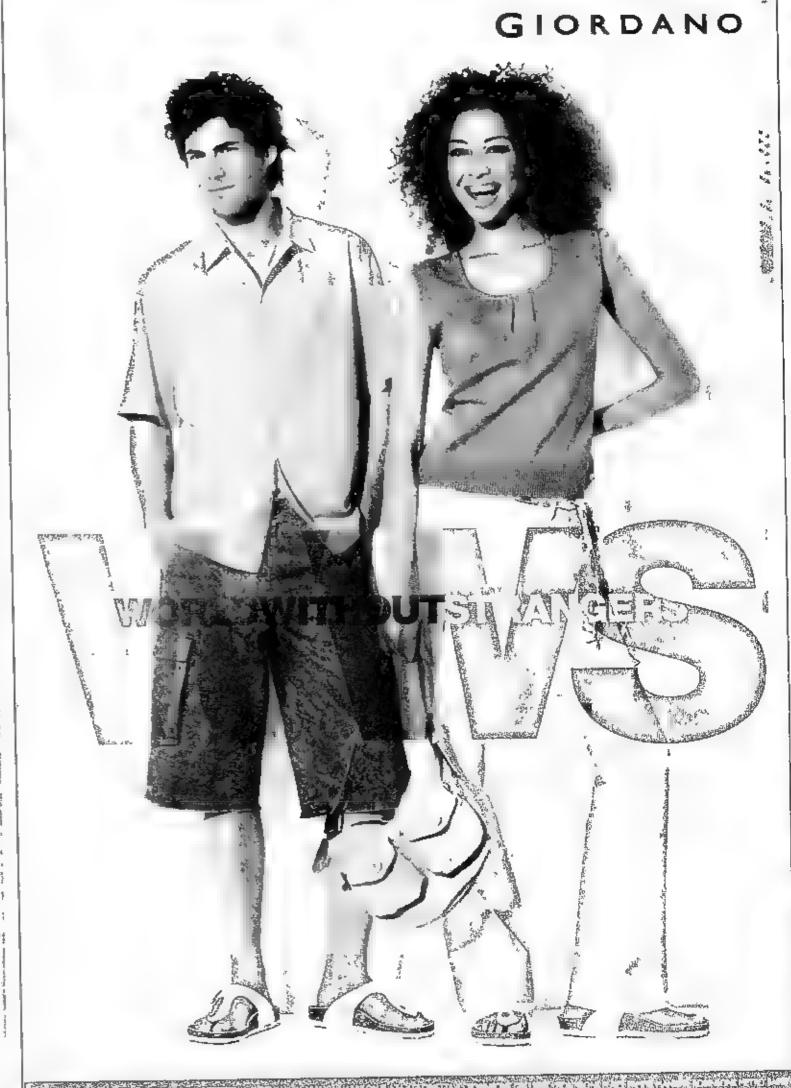
find a window to read!

She'll say you're nuts for getting her sexy lingerie, but she'll be tickled scarlet no less. (Tip: If you're not sure of her size, it's always more flattering to get the smaller one. Get a size too big and you defeat the purpose. This you'll learn the hard way.)

A bunch of red roses to go with the lingerie may be cliché, but it never hurts, honey, never. Neither does a basket of some spicy goodies and dark, luscious confections you two can share in bed; or some sensual bath scents, for both your pleasure.

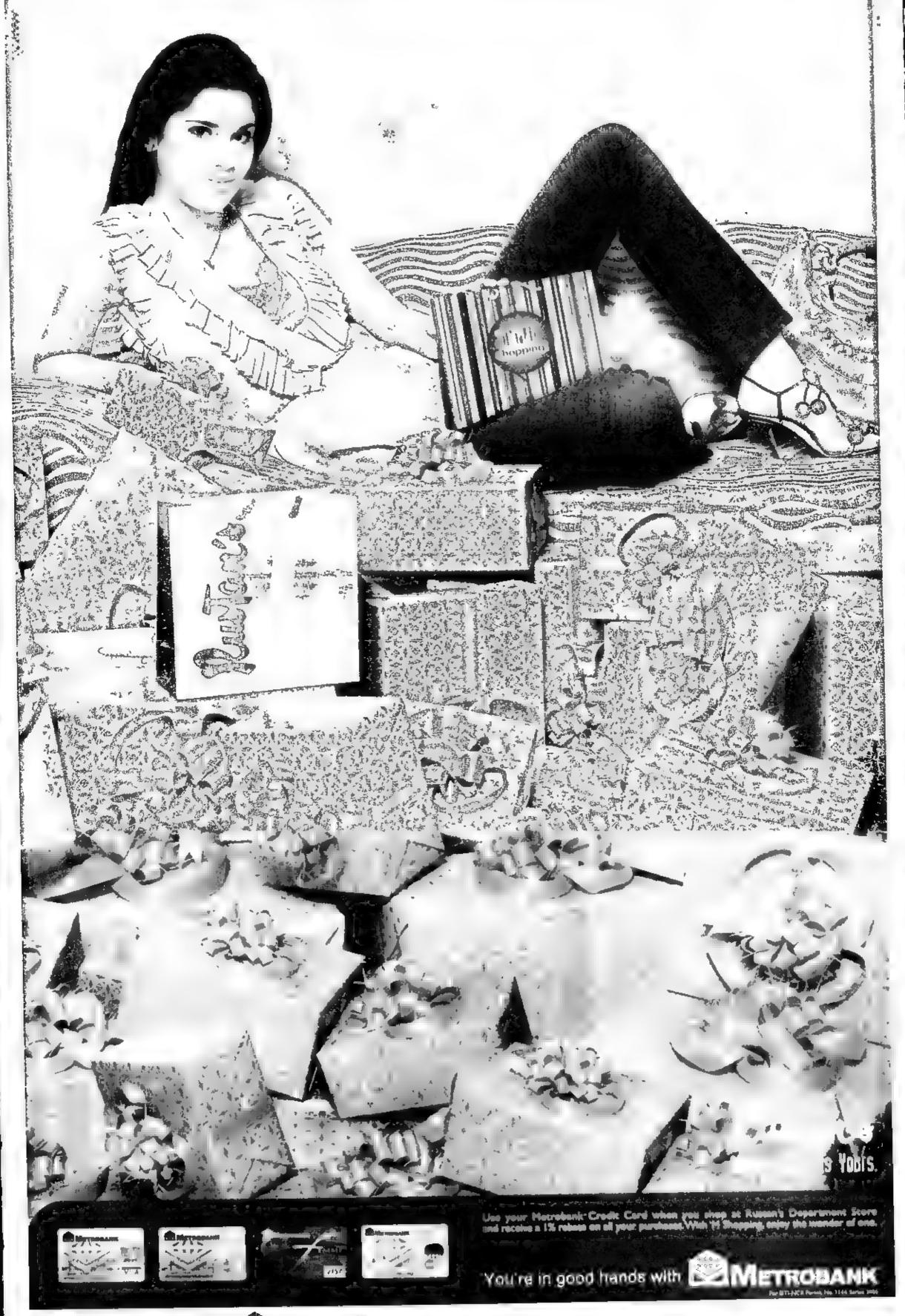
Lastly, there's nothing like saying, showing—and meaning—it. The love of your kids' mama is cheap, as you must know by now (no diamond purchase necessary, but why not if you can afford it?).

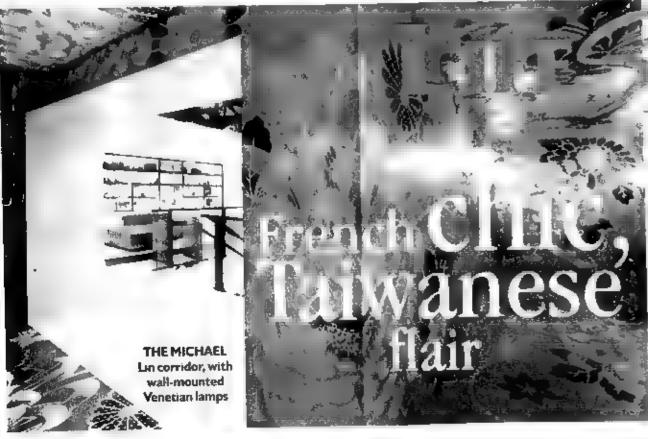
If it's too much to ask of you to do it all year, what's a day to pay it all back?





Get a 1% rebate with your Metrobank Credit Card at any Rustan's Department Store





Taipei is only the fifth city in the world to host a Maison, the premier level of concept stores by

Louis Vuitton

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/ age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Taipei, with a diamond-encrusted likeness of Taipe: 101 on the dial. At right, the goldand-diamonds Pineapple Charm, available worldwide next month

By Cheche V. Moral

■ VEN AS THE INcessant downpour ___ threatened to literally rain on its parade, not even the 5.6-magnitude earthquake that jolted the city could've stopped the opening of Louis Vuitton Maison in Taipei on April 28.

Taipei is only the fifth city-and the third in Asia—to host a Maison, the premier level of concept stores by the French accury malletter, following Paris, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong. It's a testament to the significance of the Taiwan market to the brand. The company opened its first store in Tarwan 23 years ago and, with the Maison's opening, now has nine stores across the island.

Cultural imprint

An IV Maison is home not just to the entire IV collection, but also bears the cultural imprint of the

city through collaborations with a local DE HE Store's man and design.

Located on Shan Chung North Road in Taiwan capital, the IV Mai-

son Taipei was designed by the with the Pineapple Charm, which Japanese architect Kumiko Inui, comes in yellow gold with 28 diawho is also responsible for the company's store in Kochi, Japan. Before she set up her own firm, the diminutive woman had previously worked for Jun Aola, the prominent architect who had designed the exteriors of many an DV store-in New York, Hong Kong Landmark, and Ganza, Omotesaudo, Osaka, Nagoya and Roppongi Hills in Japan.

The entire facade of the fourstory Taiper Marson features IV's signature Damier checkerboard pattern. The opaque stones glow at



MINI LV purses, er, bag charms

night owing to LED backlighting. The Damser theme is carried throughout the interiors, with a skylight atop the starrcase connecting the four levels.

The ground floor houses IV's most popular items, such as wornen's handbags, eyewear, small leathergoods and select jewelry, including the limited-edition Speedy Twilight Taipei watch that bears a

encrusted likeness of taliest building. Tarwan's iconic fruit, the pineap-

ple, is also immortalized for the occasion monds or yellow sapphires.

Men's ready-to-wear, luggage, footwear (including shoes for little boys!) and accessones are on the second level. Right above it is devoted to women's RTW, footwear, eyewear, accessories, and hand bags, naturally.

The Tarpei Maison houses a bookstore with a collection of tomes on art, design, fashion, lifestyle and travel, all subjects that are congruent to the heritage of



MONOGRAM mahjong case

THE TAIPE! Maison is the first to carry an LV bookstore outside of Paris, this one adjoining the men's leathergoods section.

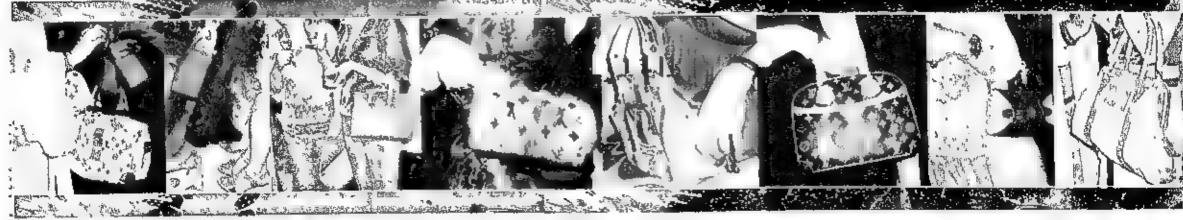


The only way to enjoy wine this Mother's Day. Mom deserves only the best -- Novellino wines. Bold, refreshing flavors. Rich, sparkling textures. Mother's Day has never tasted so good.



Miles away from Mom?

This Mother's Day, surprise her with a SUN IDD Call.





LV CHAIR and CEO Yves Carcelie (third from left) is flanked by Guillaume Thierry, LV Taiwan CEO; Korean pop star Rain; Francois Delage, LV Asia-Pacific president; and female models



French chic, Taiwanese fl



THE ARCHITECT AND THE ARTIST. Kumiko Insi (left)



BENCAR AND RIONAL LATING CARRESPONDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T



For a minimal fee, get a chance to paint your own miniature Guyito masterpiece and enter it in our "Paint a Guyito Contest." Winners will be featured in the Junior Inquirer Magazine.

Mechanics

- 1.Register at the PDI booth
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- 3. Paint the miniature Guyito
- 4. Submit your entry to PDI representatives

MAY 22, 23, & 24 MARKET! MARKET! ACTIVITY CENTER

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CUT THIS COUPON AND PRESENT TO PDI BOOTH TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT!

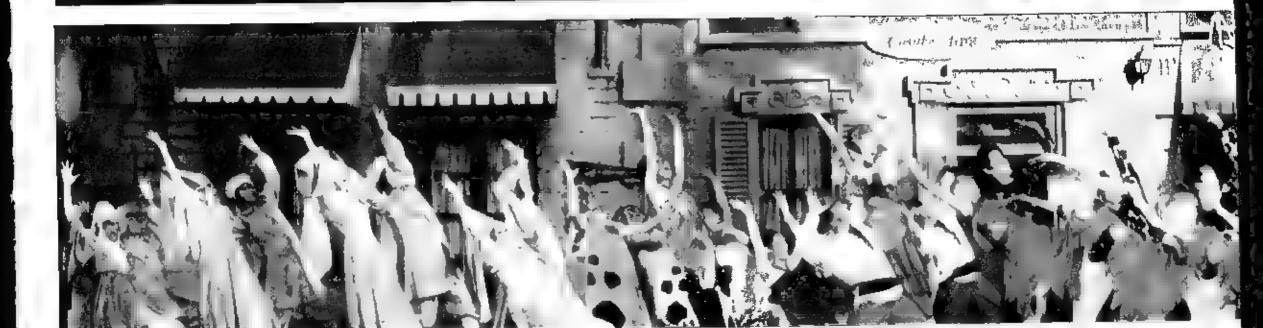
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From page FI

Louis Vuitton and which, according to CEO and chair Yves Carcede, "complement the auxury products and at mosphere." Taipei is the first iV store to carry this concept outside of Paris.

Part of the 600-title collection is on the men's level. Here, clients can browse through the Magic Book, an implement that flips its pages with an electronic sensor. No danger of dog-earing precious pages, thank you very much.

The fourth level takes the greater part of the book collection. Adjacent to it is the stark-red Michael Lin corridor, a striking contrast to the elegantly muted look of the entire store,

Local flair

Lin is a Taiwanese artist based in Paris and Taipei who was commissioned to provide the local flair to the Maison. Known for his immense floral patterns affixed on vast spaces, the 42-yearold artist reproduced a onght red florat pattern cu led from a tattered Taiwanese rug on an L-shaped section of the Maison's VIP section. The pattern is painted floor-to-ceiling, seamlessy blending into the crimson nteriors of the elevator. The elevator's leather interiors are embossed and embroidered with the same floral pattern, and is said to mimic the inner lining of a trunk.

Lin's patterns are, in fact, arge-scale reproductions of textile patterns found in Taiwanese homes, designs of which are already fast van-

"You will probably be disappointed in this," Lin said 'I don't design the patterns. I copy them from the original and manipulate them, In



GOLD necklace à la Carrie **Bradshaw**

that way I'm placing tradifron into a new context, and renew it in that way."

For the first time, Lin also worked with the material Corian, which is part plastic and part stone, carving the same floral patterns in a white paravent screen located at the VIP lounge area.

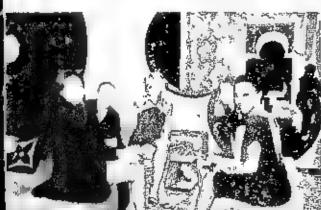
The artist's works would be the enduring theme of the LV affair, with the patterns adoming the indoor gazebos and apholstered seats at the majestic Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, the venue of the Maison's opening party. The flower prints were also projected on the exterior walls of the hall. The metal plates of the dance floor were similarly stenciled with floral patterns.

And no, he didn't mind that people literally walked all over his work, Lin said. "You are enveloped by the work. You use it. You make it a part of you. I guess that's the most important thing with ornaments, it should be рівазілаіне "

Carcelle said he was quite pleased with Lin's work that he's not writing off the idea of signing him up for anoth-

"We like to work with peopie we've worked before," he said "Yes, Michael was chosen because he's Taiwanese But when we like your work. just as we like Kumiko's, nationality later becomes immaterial. And we like to work with artists."

A Michael Lin handbag, possibly? Hramm, not too shabby next to a Murakami.





FROM THE INDOOR gazebos to the dance floor, the LV party is awash in Michael Lin prints.

THE TAIWANESE sooo love their LV purses, and proof are these sightings at the Taipei Maison party. But the Muscovites love their Marc Jacobs-designed ready-to-wear even more, LV chief Yves Carcelle told the Inquirer. With only two stores in Moscow, new-rich Russians top the French fashion house's pret-a-porter sales, beating even the Japanese. LV has over 40 stores in Japan.





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Metropolis Star Alabang

See posters and flyers for details.

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 Nagaland, Email, Naga City Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1146 Series of 2006.



There's a new attraction at Enchanted Kingdom.

This summer, don't miss Festivale Danzel A stunning parade loaded with dance moves, musical grooves and breathtaking fireworks that will surely make your summer days sizzle! Every weekend at 5pm until May 14, 2006.





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MOCCASIN

ACID green flip-flops will complement any feet.



DAINTY slipper with beaded strap

Reva carries on
where Rubberworld
left off but bearing
the current hallmarks

of the Filipino shoe industry

USINESS enough to eat are the "berries" on thus jelly slipper.

By Linda B. Bolido

PEOPLE WHO GREW UP WITH Rubberworld may now be raising a generation in Reva world.

LIMOST good

Set up by José Yu, probably the first Filipino to train in shoemaking in Germany, home base of some prestigious sports brands, Rubber-world was among the top labels in the country for decades, manufacturing footwear, particularly local athletic shoes and the then popular Spartan rubber stippers, for Pilipines of all

But as the local shoe industry increasingly became untenable, what with the entry of cheap imports, restive workers, rising costs of raw ma-



CHILDREN'S shoes come in rambow hases and modern designs.

terials, Rubberworld found distribution more practical than manufacturing.

And so, for years, the company, renamed Unisport Italia Mfg. Corp., became a distributor of some foreign labels, with the primary responsibility of bringing them to provincial retailers.

The "shoe" of a distributor might have been comfortable enough for a while but the call of leather (and all the other materials they now turn into footwear) proved too irresistible for Yu. The Filipino shoemaker never really lost his feel for the product. Those who know him marvel at his mastery of the craft which enables him to tell if a shoe is unevenly made by just looking at it and turning it this way and that a few times.

The Reva brand was born in 1997, bearing the hallmarks of the evolution of the Philippine shoe industry. Reva is a production that gets its direction and ideas from the Philippines. Yu's daughter, Eleanor Ocampo, has eagerly jumped into the old family business assuming the position of vice president and providing most of the design ideas. She basically runs the company here while her father oversees work by production units in China.

Design 'improv'

Ocampo says she does not do any actual illustrations. What she does is draw inspirations and generate design ideas from her travels and from various publications.

Tweaking the designs here and there so they will be different from the original and will be more suitable to the actual needs of the Filipino foot, the ideas are sent to production units in China for manufacture.

The Chinese end also suggests designs occasionally, drawing from trends gleaned from what importers buy. China, of course, has betome a major shoe exporter. Just look at what most local retailers are selling these days.

Ocampo says Reva products are now geared primarily towards the "after-sport" infestyle—what people wear to go malling, on a leisurely stroll, casual gettogethers or just about any occasion that does not call for format leather or tough sports shoes.

Pretty slip-ons dominate the Reva line for women and sturdy open-toed sandals for men (what are occasionally referred to locally as "sandalyas ni Hudas"). Ocampo says espadrilles may be expected during the hot, dry season.

A few athletic shoes are thrown in occasionally and an apparel line is being considered in the future.

Children get rubber shoes in candy colors and smaller versions of the sandals and slipons.

Prices range from a low of P59 to no more

rrices range from a

The label is available in major shopping malls or the company showroom at 497 President Quirino Ave. cor. Zulueta St., Paco, Mansia (tel. 5617137)



FLORAL bubble skirts for young girls are fashion staples at Space Boutique.

Stylish space

SPACE BOUTIQUE IS A HAVEN for ladies' apparel that is sure to make every fashion-loving gal's heart beat faster.

Space flaunts an array of ultra-stylish wearables for young, hip women. Take a pick from billowy cotton tops, puff-sleeved belted jackets, sheer sabrina blouses, floral bubble skirts, classic pique polo shirts, printed blouses, cargo-inspired skirts and pants.

Fresh, young, hip and chic, this clothing brand sets the trend and continues to whip up fresh, new clothing ideas.

Space Bourique in located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM Valenzuela, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower, and Rustan's Manula









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Contract Part Color Check Charge Continues to

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Contributing Editor RIa Francisco-Prieto

BEAR I REAL ON WARRING A TH

Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

What can we give someone who has given us everything and really don't want anything

BEAUTY Touch lipstick

material?

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all moms and soon to-be-moms!

I love kids. In fact I think I get along with them more than with adults. They have no pretensions, are easy to entertain and love cartoons as much as I do. I guess this carefree attitude slowly seeps away when you have to take care of the bills and think of the future. That is why I still want to be a playmate, not a parent. As of the moment, I don't have to make the kids sleep and take care of them when they get sick.

A friend of mine has just recently found out that she is expecting.

Everyone is so happy and excited for her, but certain things entered my head that I feel guilty about. It's actually three things-excessive weight gam, stretch marks and sagging. Not to mention the most important



Ria Francisco-Prieto

part, which is having to nurture a child who will be doing battle with you when they hit their teens. I know it sounds a little selfish and narrow-minded but these are things our mothers have to contend with. I wish I could honestly say I embrace all these things because I am a

"little person" is delivered? So when my husband tells me how excited he is to have a baby, I remind him that I am the one who will get pregnant and a lot of changes will

Christian and a baby is always a blessing. But should I be happy about what happens after the

happen to me Psychologically and emotionally, I think I can handle the changes, but the physical ones I'm still trying to feel comfortable about. So what I do to prepare myself is to try to accept that these things would happen (excessive weight gain, stretch marks and sagging) so that when I do get pregnant, all I would have is happiness toward

my situation and excitement for the baby.

Practical gift

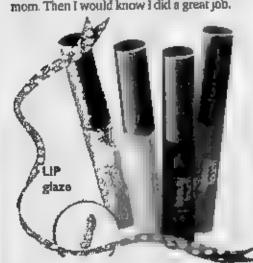
It's Mother's Day next Sunday. What can we give someone who has given us everything and really don't want anything material? A card is what moms love, of course, but makeup would be a great addition, too. It's a practical gift since they all use some

Sara Lee has a new collection called Beauty Touch. The colors are nothing outrageous, but they are really pretty and versatile and can be used by anyone easily. All the eyeshadows come in four palettes and you have seven variations to choose from, while blushers have two palettes each.

Sara Lee also has a wide selection of powders, lipstick and lip glaze (this is actually my personal fave)

My mom is one of the most influential people in my life, because I love her and mostly because I know that whatever she says, even if it's something I don't want to hear, is actually for my best interest. I believe motherhood is the most difficult and least rewarding job on earth. Still, I know someday I would want to have my own mini-me and mini-Paoio.

My friends who have kids say that a parent's love for a child is the purest love there is. When I become one, I hope to be as nurturing and as cool as my mom, and I wish my child will talk about me like how my husband talks about his mom. Then I would know I did a great job.





mom's love, like nature,





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The Powerplant Mail, Rockwell Center 898-2042 / 898-2043 • Glorietta 2 Ayala Center 810-0525 Commerce Avenue, Alabang Town Center 842-8350 / 842-8351 - Shangri-La Mall 687-0018 Katipunen Avenue, Loyota Heights 433-0188 • Festival Supermail 850-4025 • The Podium 633-7808 Greenbell 3 Ayala Center 757-4577 - Eastwood Citywalk Libts 887-7718 - Robinson's Galleria 633-3541 SM City Bagulo (074) 619-0517 - Gateway Araneta Center 911-4346 - Ayala Center Cebu (032) 234-1045 Soon to open; Malt of Asia

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BY JESS ABRERA











MARVIN



AND I SUPPOSE DOGS HAVE A SUPERIOR WAY TO MAINTAIN PROPER HIGHENE?



BY TOM ARMSTRONG PUGAD BABOY





BE

KIND

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ANIMALS

WEEK

GUSTO KO NA RING MAGBENTA N'UNG SALOT SA KABATAAN YUNG NAKAKA ADIK NAKAKA SIRA SA KALUSUSAN AT NAKAKAPASPAPUROL NG ISIPAN! M-MAGTU



BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT MUTTS



ATOMO AND WEBOY



HOROSCOPE BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind. You're an independent thinker, and you do your homework before you act. You love to expose other people's sacred cows. You're playful, lighthearted and teasing, yet you're very serfous about practically everything in life. You express yoursel! well and are often in a position of leadership. Increased solltude this year will help you team something important.

Birthdate of: Katharine Hepburn, actress, George Carlin, comedian; Tony Hawk, skateboard superstan.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Financiai mat-

ters or shared property might be a concern for you now. You're not sure whose interests to put first-your own or those of somebody else. (You cannot ignore your own.)



sign. (Every Full Moon is an opposition of the Sun and the Moon.) This means you have to be more patient with others right now. (No big deal.)



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be tolerant and understanding of CO-WORKBIS. might be pushy and nervous today. (It's just a Full Moon thang.)



CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The demands of friends and the demands of your personal life might be in conflict today. You can't please everybody. Don't worry about this.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Things might be dicey when dealing with home today. Today's Full Moon outs stress on your domestic world. (This tension is gone in 48 hours.)



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day. The Full Moon will excite some people and distract them when driving, walking,



whatever. Therefore, take precautions and slow down.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In one way, this is a good day for business. Just make sure you see both sides of the situation. You could boost your earnings,



but don't be pushy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23_to Nov. 21]: Today's Full Moon is the only Full Moon in your sign all year. That's why you feel more intense and emotional about everything! Relax—it's gone in a day or two.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Maya Angelou said, No one can make you leel interior without your con-sent." Keep this in mind today. Dispel any feelings of setf-doubt. They will disappear quickly.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Friends and groups might demand more of, you than you can give. Don't worry about this. You don't have to please everyone if you please yourself, you'll cover 75 percent of everybody else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to



Feb. 18): Authority fig-ures are demanding today. You're not sure what to make of it. If possible, do nothing. Just smile. In a few days, your course of action will be clear



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid refi-gious and political arguments with others today. They will just go in circles. You'll be preaching to deaf ears or to the choli.

BY LYRA GARCELLANO DIVINE COMEDY





MIKROKOSMOS

KNINWARI, NAGLOKO ANG

MISTER MO, SINDING STRESS AND! YUNG SASABUNIN MO, SIYA, O ANG KALAGUYO NIYA?



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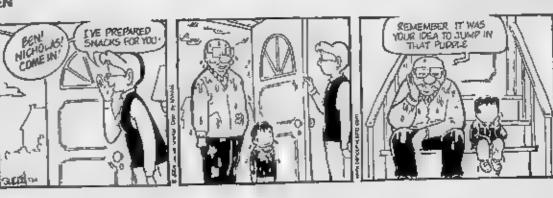
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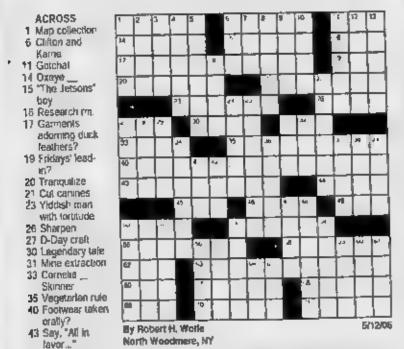
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BY DAN ELSHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



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KIKO MACHINE



BY MANIX ABRERA

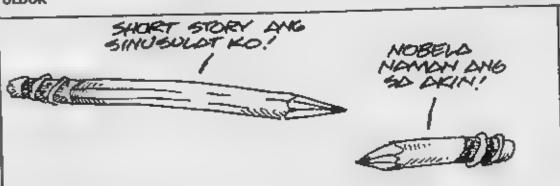
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LOVEKNOTS



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SCHWARZKOPF fessional introduces the the all new Bonacure range of hair care, a sophisticated line of customized treatments that delivers outstanding and enduring hair beauty.

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Bonacure's new range of hair care products provides in-depth and long-term and effective therapies that treat the root of the problem rather than mask them with quick fix solutions.

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BONACURE Hairtherapy by Schwarzkopf bottles are colorcoordinated to easily recognize the specific product for your hair type.

granced with subtle citrus and light floral notes to leave the hair feeling clean, fresh and cared for.

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Repair Rescue. The active CuraTec proteins deliver outstanding results, reinforcing and restructuring hair from within.

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products are delicately fra- mg hair healthy, alive and vi-

Moisture Kick. A rich and intensive care system for dry, naturally coarse hair. The Milk-Protein-Complex and Amino Acid Therapy rehydrate even the driest



SMOOTH control, light volume and great colors

and most fragile hair. Smooth Control. This remedy is specifically designed to tame even the unruliest of hair types. It smoothes

and heals ummanageable, frizzy hair, leaving it silky, shiny and under control. Light Volume. An ultra-light range of therapies for normal to

fine hair that nourishes and protects without weighing the hair down. The care treatments contain Light Body-Complex to gently condition the hair without overburdening it.

Hair and Scalp Expert, This range of delicate hair therapies treat all hair and scalp problems, from dandruff and sensitive scalps to hair loss, with their gentle formulations. For the first time, Bonacure offers an ultra-effective and safe hair growth serum that deliver superior, longterm results.

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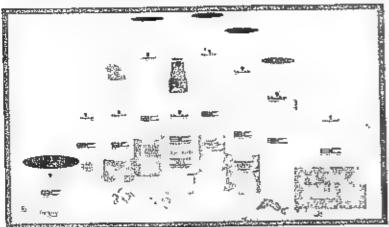
HEALTHY,

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BONACURE, a sophisticated new line of customized hair treatments from Schwarzkopf Professional



BRAD Bergman, director of Exotic Beauty Cosmetics, with Australian friends Kevin Lewis, Farren Hoffman and Laurie Martin



RiKKI Kwek, 'Fin Magsaysay, Eye Majic distributor Jurianno Ejercito SARABARIA CAR and Chesca Litton

Instan eyeshadow now, in Manila

IF THEY MUST WEAR MAKEUP, MOST women will automatically reach for their B blush, powder or hpstick. Eyeshadow often comes last, because not only is it difficult to put on, especially in a moving vehicle, it also takes a lot more time and effort, because women have to blend the colors properly so as not to end up looking like something the cat dragged through a cosmetic

A new product tries to eliminate the hassles associated with putting on eyeshadow.

Launched recently at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino in Greenhills, Eye Majic Instant Eye Shadow has been brought into the country from Australia by Eye Maric Philippines director Gina Ledesma and distributor Jerianne Ejercito.

The trade and press launch was hosted by Chesca Litton and Rikki Kwek. A fashion show featured the creations of designer Frederick Peralta

Eye Manc comes in seven pre-selected different, shades that take the hassle

; out of blending. With Eye Maile, one does



ROCK Mamone, Italian inventor of Eye Majle, demonstrates how the product Instantly enhances the eyes.

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not have to worry about using brushes or applicators that may be dirty or infected. Eye Majic has a "zero contamination" factor, since the strips are manufactured, packaged and sealed by state-of-the-art machinery.

The product remains untouched by human hands & until it is used by the person 3 who buys it.

It is easy to use. The colors come on a strip that one applies to the eyelid. One should simply close the eyelid and apply the Eye Majic strip as close to the base of the eyelid as at possible. Then using q comfortable pressure, 4 one holds the strip firmly & for about four seconds, so then slide it across the eyelid. One can then use

the reverse side of the Eye Majic strip to blend and tune the outer areas of the ap-14 plied eye shadow for a softer look. The Philippines is the first country in 2

Asia to try the new beauty product. The Philippines has been chosen as our, a gateway to the rest of Asia. It was our country of choice due to our long association and close relationship with our Philippine business parmer as well as our own personal affection for the country itself where the English language is so widely used and understood," said Brad Bergman, director of Exone Beauty Cosmetics and manufacturer

of Eye Matic. For dealership inquiries, call 8680525 and 5296469. R-mail gltrading@yahoo.com, eye majic@yahoo.com or visit website www.exoricbeauty.com.au



LIFESTYLEBERUTY

Sanctuary in the city

MAKEOVER

AVE YOU HAD house apartment the urge to get away from it all? Just get up in the middle of a work week and escape the city?

I had tried it several times but had always chickened our because I was scared to leave behind my responsibilities. Don't emergencies usually pop up when you're far away?

Besides, I am a city girl at heart and the fresh air plus the peace and quiet of the country might drive me nuts after just a few hours. If it doesn't, the long commute home surely will.

There is a new salon called Philosophy by Mikaela that allows me to have my cake and eat it, too. It is located on A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road)

From the elevator you go all the way up to the penthouse (5/F) and as the lift door opens, you will find yourself at the salon's elegant foyer.

The interiors look very indulgent, in accord with the decadent '80s "Dynasty" flair. You would feel like Joan Collins as Alexis Carrington Colby in a full-length mink coat getting off the elevator, opening to her luxurious pent-

The saion has a pure oxygen

environment, which is even bet-quests-you want to look thinner,

in some provinces, so you really don't smell a thing and you feel more relaxed within 9 minutes of settling in. wi

Natural light filters through the big treated windows without the oppressive rays of the hot sun. As you look out, you will see the cars zooming past, but will not hear a Kinny Salas decibel of traffic noise

as the place is also soundproof. The place is also a strictly nosmoking zone. But for those who must have a light, they can go to

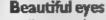
the well-bt terrace. Now we go to the fun part treatments and services. The moment I walked in, I was thrilled to see Eddie Magadia, the first professional hairdresser to ever touch my hair when I first started

writing this column. What I love about Eddie is that he develops a personal relationship with every client's hair. His gift is such that the moment you walk in the door he has just about sized you up and he instanctively

knows what to do with your hair. If you have any special re-

ter than what passes for fresh air you revise the shape of your

face-he can oblige. He has yet to fail me in the six times he has handled my hair.



Theirs is the most undetectable eyelash extensions for P2,050 that I intend to pitch it to my mom and sister as a Mother's Day

Only in this column will my friends now know my mascara was not the item that deserved the credit for my long, dark and perfectly curved lashes. The credit goes to the real hair that tapers off at the tips like real

People said I was blooming without makeup and that something was different about me, but they couldn't pinpoint what I had done. They really liked my eyes. For my part, it was liberating not to be a slave to mascara and an eyelash curler. (Rozelle of Philosophy did my lashes, really)

Extensions last for two months and you are discouraged from you how it goes!

rubbing the eye area when washing the face. The extension is perfect for summer because you can do away with eye makeup alto-

Honestly, it's too hot to wear makeup and the one at the eye area just ends up smearing and creasing on greasy faces, anyway. I just put a cheek gel and sheer lipstick and I'm out the

Those who want less maintenance may opt for an eyelash perm instead for P850. It will also last two months and make mascara application a delight because your lashes are separated and the hassle of curling is no longer a factor.

For the eyebrow-obsessed, May of Philosophy will thread them into glamorous arches that will brighten your face and serve as an instant eye-lift, it really is the cheapest eye job available

Philosophy also has the favonte Chinese medicine treatments, a favorite of celebrities, such as acopuracture facelift and Moxa Ventoza or cupping at the back (they're favorites of Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow).

I am scheduled for the acupuncture facelift. I will tell



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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Stars' secrets revea WHAT IS THE SECRET BEHIND Angelma Johe's radiant skin or Jessica Alba's beautiful plump

Johe and Alba are just two celebrities who use various Lush products to help keep their filmstar looks.

Alba uses Lush's Honey Trap lip balm (P425), a moisturizing and softening bake full of honey and beeswax to soften, plus antioxidant-rich cold-pressed wheatgerm oil and olive oil. To help plump up the lips, Lush uses peppermint essential oil.

Jolie gets help in keeping her skin flawless from Lush's Ultrabland face cleanser (P475). The (P375), the Lush product for

product has light, peanut oilbased and extremely effective formulation, lifting and dissolv ing dirt and excess sebum and leaving the skin plumped up and soft.

Lindsay Lohan uses Lush's Breath of Fresh Air toner (P575) to give her skin a refreshing spritz when necessary. Made with Spring water, fresh seawater and aloe gel, along with mineralrich seaweed, the torung spritzer prevents dehydration, while moisturizing and softening

Kylie Minogue buys Buffy



keeping burns and thighs soft and smooth.

Best used in the shower, Buffy has shea butter that melts over skin. The ground adult beans, rice and almonds will scrub and poush the skin, leaving it in prime condition. The product also contains lavender and lemon essential oils

All products are available at Lash shops nationwide.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Special-.sts, Inc. Lush bounques are in Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangn-La Mall and Greenbelt www.lush.com.ph

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Complete the puzzle. Present to claim your double treat on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2006!



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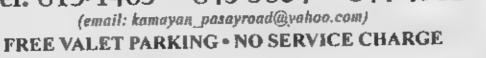




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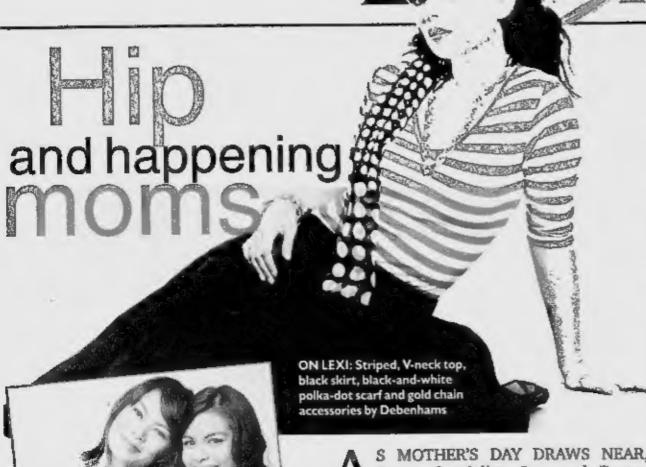




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Text us your feedback inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



S MOTHER'S DAY DRAWS NEAR, Stores Specialists Inc. and Rustan Marketing Specialty Inc. pay tribute to two hip, young yet extraordinary mothers: model, INQUIRER fashion columnist and interior designer Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, and magazine editor and radio host Lexi Shulze-Berenguer-Testa.

They are true examples of how the contemporary morn can balance several roles while staying absolutely chic.

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, mother of two, is the perfect image of a cool mom. While she is generally the kind to keep a casual and friendly relationship with her children, she also knows when it's time to put her foot down, and set

I think it's important to be a friend and still make them understand that I am still their mom whom they can talk to and turn to for advice," she says.

During a shoot with her 14-year-old daughter Sam, she shares how her flair for fashion has become good common ground for weekly bonding sessions spent at the mall.

"We find the time to go to the mall, just the two of us. We shop or simply look around."

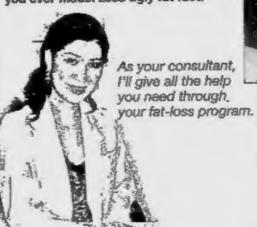
Sometimes, I find that several articles of clothing of mine are in her closet. Of course, she has her own fashion HIP/HZ

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MAY 6 - STARMALL EDSA MAY 13 - STARMALL LAS PINAS

ON APPLES: Striped mustard-yellow spaghetti

cocktail dress by Jessica, accessories by Red

pocket detailed polo and denim skirt with

Herring at Debenhams, On Sam: Checkered

accessories, all by Red Herring at Debenhams

Tel. 718-1886 May 1, Arts & Galls: Basic Pointing & Correctors Making, 2/1, 4pm

May 6, SIDE A Concort, 2/1, 8pm May 6, Semmer Bikini Hights, Cubo Libro, 2/1, 8pm May 7, Stordan 2006 Grand Finels, 2/1 4pm May 11 & 16, Kiddie Ster Model Sourch, 2/L, 4pm May 12, Center for Pop Music Recitel, 2/L, 4pm

May 13, Kidding Aside Feshian Show by: RDH Entertainment, 7/L, 4pm

May 13, Kloding Asign Pishich Show by: Roll Entershallows, 274, 4pm
May 14, Mom's Dry-aut with Ruby Rodriguez, 2/1 3pm
May 19-21, "Aquario" Exhibit of different Aquarium Set-up & Fishes, 2/1, 10em-8pm
May 20 & 27, Storytelling Activity @ Books for less, 2/1, 4pm
May 21, Dream Concert by: Center for Pop Music, 2/1, 4pm
May 27, Finds Superstone Grand Lauacking with Christian Bautista and

May 28, Kiddie Stor Model Search Grand Finals & Flores de Maya, 2/L, 2pm May 28, Kiddie Stor Model Search Grand Finals & Flores de Maya, 2/L, 2pm May 28-31, "Maskierpiece" Ethibit, 6/L, 10un-8pm Tuasdays, Stand-up Camady @ Cuba Libro, 2/L, 8pm Fridays, Live Bunds @ Cuba Libro, 2/L, 8pm

Tel. 850-3845

May 1, Arts & Crofts Livelibood "No Bake Coha", 3/1, 1pm
May 5, 12, 19 & 26, Indek so Kelikason "Of Dence Contest Eliminations, 2/1, 4pm
May 7, Jed Modela wall tour, 2/1, 6pm
May 13-14, Mary Kay Make-up Densa, 3/1, 4pm
May 13-14, Nutrition Courseling for Mare & Kids, 3/1, 10pm
May 13, SMB Summer Baharan: Wet a" Wild Party, Open Parking, 7pm
May 13, SMB Summer Baharan: Wet a" Wild Party, Open Parking, 7pm

May 14, Strings Serentede @ Kinse Lang & Mex's, 5pm May 20, Family Fun Gerne Show with Ruby Rodriguez, 3/1, 4pm May 20, Martiel Arts Dome leaturing Wusley, 3/1, 2pm

May 27, SIDE A Concest, 4/1, 8pm. May 28, Starland Mallwide Santacruzum & Little Miss Starland 'Oé, 3pm.

Mandays & Tuesdays, Live Bands @ Merk's Bex, 2/L, 6pm Wednesdays, Hightlife Accestics, 2/L, 6pm

Thersdays, Stund-op Comedy @ Mark's Bar, 2/L, Rom

Tel. 872-5249

May 13, SIDE A Concert, 2/L, 8pm May 13 & 27, Aero-Morethon for Mones, My Spa Fitness, 1pm Mey 14, Mem's Seronade @ Figara, Denclos & Gloria Maris, 6pm May 18, Zarzuela de Bocolod, 2/L, 7pm

May 19, Baseboo the City Tour, 2/1, 7pm

May 27, SMB Summer Babaran, Open Perking, 7pm May 27, Monterey MYP on Wheels Cooking Demo, Open Porking, Ipm

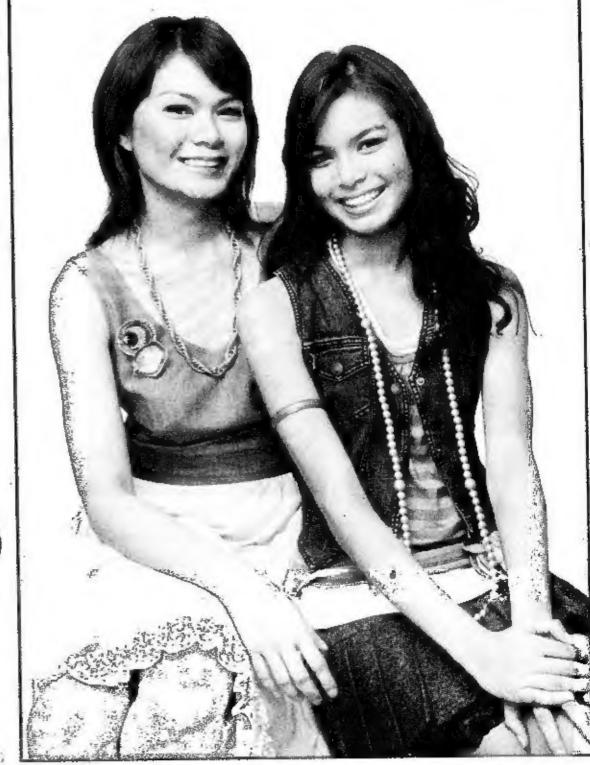
lucsdays, Ballicom Highlis @ Mark's Bet, 7pm Wednosdays, Live Masic @ The Strip, 7pm

Fridays, Acoustic Hights @ Mosk's Bor, 7pm Saturdays, Live Music @ The Strip footering Divost, 7pm

LIFESTYLE

ON APPLES: Brown cocktail dress with patch details by Jessica, bracelets by Red Herring at Debenhams, On Sam: Denim vest over striped racerback top, skirt, necklace and bangle, all by Red Herring at Debenhams

Two women
exemplify how
the contemporary
mom can balance
several roles
while staying
absolutely chic



MINT-GREEN trench coat with belt by Jessica

and happening Mand happening

the bottom seasons a competitive factor with earlier as year or as motion to be in the deficient

From page H I

statement but I know that to some degree she takes after my style. I also know that she's waiting to fit into my

Lexi Schulze-Berenguer-Testa, on the other hand, while quite new to the world of parenting, is all smiles as she talks about her 8-month-old bundle of joy, Alba.

One of the most beautiful faces to grace the pages of magazines and commercials, Laxi has always been the type to go around town in bohemian and funky clothes that are reflective of her dynamic personality and passion for her the arts. And this is how she remains.

"Style, more than a piece of clothing, is an attitude. I am very comfortable in my skin. I don't feel the need to impress or conform," she says.

With little Alba now in her arms, Lexi says, "Being a parent brings an internal shift which I don't tend to express through the way I dress. I am a believer that we women wear so many hats—career woman, homemaker, wife, mother. There are so many dimensions to a woman that you cannot restrict her to one title. So you have the same old me, in the same funky clothes."

same old me, in the same funky clothes."

All clothes and accessories by Laundry by Shelli Segal,
Jessica, Episode, DKNY and Calvin Klein are exclusively
distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Debenhams and
Marks & Spencer are exclusively distributed by Rustan
Marketing Specialty Inc.





CREAM eyelet dress by Jessica and beaded necklace by DKNY

Two-of-a-kind moms



ACTRESS Maritoni Fernandez and son Llama
"As a mother, I never take for granted important moments. I relish their firsts and I don't let five minutes pass without saying "Hove you" to them."

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, METROBANK CARD Corporation salutes two moms who best exemplify unconditional love—Olympiad and television personality Christine Jacob-Sandejas and actress and entrepreneur Maritoni Fernandez.

A full-time career as a popular TV host was something Christine Jacob-Sandejas decided to give up without hesitation when she got married and had children.

Now blessed with three kids—Paolo Antonio, 5; Gabby, 4; Nina, 2; plus another boy on the way—Christine is a full-time mon who couldn't ask for more.

"My son is very malambing," she describes her firstborn. "My youngest Nina is so independent that she doesn't want anybody to help her in anything. And my linke girl Gabby knows what she wants. She can really put her foot down and she'll do it. And they're all very friendly. I'm lucky in that aspect."

Christine's kids also excel in extracurricular activities. Paolo plays tennis, baseball, golf, and even joins swimming competitions, while Gabby also enjoys tennis and ballet. And Nina, at age 2, is already water-safel

Affirmations of a job well-done come with simple gestures. For instance, Gabby likes making cards for her mom. One time, too, Paolo said something to his mom that was probably the sweetest thing Christine had ever heard. "Mom, you really love your kids, don't you?" her firstborn asked. Christine

couldn't help but melt.

With moments like these, Christine doesn't regret her decision to choose family life over career.

Actress Maritoni Fernandez may appear to be a tough character especially with the villain roles she essays on film and television.

But outside show biz, Maritoni is nothing like the characters she plays. She is warm, real and caring, and makes killer broccoli soup and mouthwatering cheesecake.

Her battle with cancer is no secret to the public, so Maritoni is thankful every day for her second chance at life. Five years after beating the disease, Maritoni is now blessed with kids Alexi, 12, and Liam, 1.

"I live each day with a lot of enthusiasm, love and passion," she states. "As a mother, I never take for granted important moments. I relish their firsts and I don't even pass five minutes without saying I love you' to them. We go shopping together. We cat out. We play board and computer games together. Time and bonding are very important."

"God has blessed me back a millionfold with how extremely lucky I am with Alexi and Liam. They're the ones that make life truly worth liv-

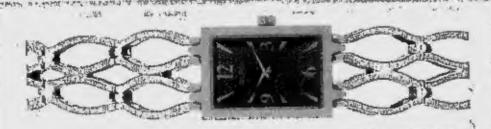
For bonding moments, enjoy shopping, dining and traveling with Metrobank Visa. With its worldwide acceptance benefit, it is the perfect companion that makes family moments even more magical.



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What's more is that the Metrobank Visa has special 0-percent installment programs, cash advance options, and balance transfer facility that allows users to transfer non-Metrobank credit card outstanding balance to your Metrobank Credit Card at low, low interest rates per month at six, nine and 12 monthly terms, And, of course, avail of superior quality with a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week customer service.

CHRISTINE jacob-Sandejas with son Paolo: "Paolo plays tennis, baseball, golf, and even joins swimming competitions,"

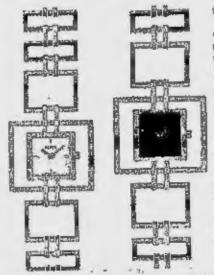


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MOTHER'S DAY PRESENTS THE PER- buying her a watch that looks like everyone fect opportunity for you to make your mom else's defeats the purpose of getting her

something special for this occasion.

Time Depot is a haven for people searching for varied watch collections. Watches offered here are ideal for moms because they are classy but can keep up with busy lifestyles.

Alfex watches are top choices for fashionable moms because they exude femi-nine sophistication, like one in polished, stainless-steel casing and scratch-proof sapphire crystal face. They are products that can be mistaken for accessories but are, in fact, functional watches, perfect for use as trendy accessories and time-keeping devices. To complete the package, Alfex watches are very high-quality timepieces, so you are assured it will be with your mom for a long while.

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